

NIAGARA NEWS

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16 pages

SEASON'S
GREETINGS



Vice-chairman of the Board of Governors, Bernard Baril, and chairman of the Regional Municipality of Niagara, Brian Merrett, discuss the new donor wall with Niagara College President

John Saso at the unveiling ceremony at the Hospitality and Tourism Centre in Niagara Falls. Photo by Armando Barbarito

College director Manitoba bound

By MICHELLE SIEWERT
Staff Writer

He's off to the wild west and he doesn't know when he'll be back.

Glenn Pevere, Niagara College's director of human resources, will be leaving the college April 1, 1992, to join the Manitoba college system. Mr. Pevere's mission is to assist three community colleges in the development of their human resources portfolio.

The colleges are converting from their system to one resembling Ontario's community college system of governance.

Mr. Pevere explained this effort means the colleges will have to undertake a lot of human resource changes which includes everything from contract negotiations to payroll systems.

"They must have all of their systems in place by the spring of 1993." The Manitoba provincial government has passed legislation to enforce the changes. "This will make the colleges become much more autonomous," Mr. Pevere said, adding the biggest issue will be how to implement the changes effectively.

Four conversion committees have been established to aid in the process. These include human resources, finance, property and plant and academic resources.

Mr. Pevere will be located in Winnipeg, at Red River College. He said he suspects a great portion of his time will be spent at that college due to its large size.

"It's exciting to have the opportunity to be on the ground floor of the change to their system," he said.

"This is a real honor for us," said Niagara College President John Saso, regarding Mr. Pevere's invitation.



GLENN PEVERE

Upon Mr. Pevere's return, undecided at this time, he will be working on special assignments for President Saso. "I'm looking forward to it," he said, adding, "It's another opportunity for growth."

Mr. Pevere has been in human resources at the college for 21 years. He said he feels somewhat nostalgic but "I'm looking forward to doing other things."

Donors' wall salutes supporters

The Niagara College Foundation held an unveiling ceremony for a donors' wall at the Hospitality and Tourism Centre in Niagara Falls last Monday.

The wall honors the major donors to the Hospitality and Tourism Centre fund-raising campaign, which garnered \$200,000 for furnishings and equipment for

the college.

Chair of the Niagara College Foundation Paul Leon and President of Niagara College John Saso were hosts for the event.

"It's a fitting tribute to those involved and those who contributed to make the Hospitality and Tourism Centre a reality,"

commented Mr. Saso.

"It expresses our gratitude to our supporters," Mr. Leon said. "Yet, it is equally important as an expression of the college's continued pledge to the development of its students and the fostering for competitive betterment of the Niagara Peninsula."

Zanutto changes hats - again

By June 1992, Foster Zanutto will no longer be director of planning at Niagara College.

He will become director, continuing education division, as Nancy Cain, the current director, will be returning to university next fall to complete her doctorate in education.

Regarding the change, Mr. Zanutto said, "I'm very excited about it," adding, "there is such variety to it (continuing education). The people in C.E. make an excellent team. They're very enthusiastic and dedicated."

Mr. Zanutto explained C.E. is a marketing job — his specialty. He has been involved with C.E. before, as he worked on the calendar and taught Spanish in C.E.

Mr. Zanutto's new job will mean analyzing trends and finding ways to expand C.E., as well as offer new programs. "C.E. has a tremendous growth potential... it has an expanding market."

Holiday edition

In the spirit of Christmas, students of the Journalism-Print program have put together a special Christmas pull-out section in this edition of the Niagara News. See pages 7-10.

Inside the News

Adieu

Chairman of the Board of Governors bids farewell. A new chairman is appointed. See page 3.

Global joy

International students speak about their traditions for Christmas and New Year's. See page 7.

Home again

Niagara College's vice-president of administration Hans van der Slagt returns from Vietnam. See page 6.

Week's athlete

Nicole Grenier is the first recipient of Niagara News' athlete of the week. See sports page 14.



Rambling with Blue Rodeo

Two Niagara College third-year radio broadcasting students recently spoke backstage with Basil Donovan, bass player for Blue Rodeo, prior to Blue Rodeo's sold-out show at Front 54, Thorold on Nov. 22. From left to right are Rob Palushek, Basil Donovan, and Ron Romeo.

Photo by Joel Naphin



Computer tutor

John Clark, a computer engineering and technology instructor (at far right), discusses computer circuitry with a delegation of the China National Nonferrous Metals Corp. From left to right,

Wen Zhaofang, employee education manager; Gong Guoliang, deputy director, planning division; Mrs. Wang Yalei, interpreter; Jan Diyong, personnel manager.

Photo by Mark Denis

Worldwise International

Non-profit group provides insight

By SUSAN EATON
Staff Writer

What does peaceful, wealthy Canada have in common with war-torn, poverty-stricken El Salvador?

To the staff and volunteers of Worldwide International Awareness Centre the answer is simple: we all share one earth, one sky and one future.

Worldwise, located in St. Catharines, is a non-profit organization that offers a unique service by creating awareness in the community through development education.

Development education is the vehicle which allows people to seek social change by probing solutions to international crises such as famine/hunger, military intervention, unequal land distribution and international debt.

Few Canadians have ever faced such injustices to the degree of those in the Third World. As such, the relationship between developed and developing countries is distant and obscure.

"Development education provides the skills to successfully deal with our global responsibility," reads the Worldwide brochure.

Awareness

"It is only through a heightened sense of awareness of the interdependence of humankind may we create a sharing, conserving and more sensible people."

To help the Niagara Region effectively participate in world affairs, Worldwide has a resource library full of accurate, current information. The resources include books, periodicals, videocassettes, curricula and posters on such topics as food and famine, women and development, apartheid, torture, tropical rainforests, chemical

and waste management.

"Our resources are completely different in approach and outlook compared to those offered in a regular library," said Myra Quinonez, Community Outreach Liaison person for Worldwide. The material offered is a valuable information source for seminar and essay purposes.

Any member of the Niagara region is welcome to make use of the resource library in the office; however, for borrowing privileges a \$10 yearly fee is required.

Subscription

This fee ensure a one-year subscription to the Worldwide newsletter, invitations to different workshops offered on current issues and notification of special events.

One such event is occurring today, Dec. 6: The Worldwide Friendship and Alternative Craft Fair.

The lasagne dinner, which begins at 6 p.m. at the Welland Avenue United Church, 25 Henry St., St. Catharines will feature Third World homemade crafts from Bolivia, Guatemala and other co-operatives, environmental T-shirts, pointsettias and more.

The cost of the dinner is \$15 per couple, \$8 single and \$4 for children under 12. Tickets will be available at the door.

"We are having the dinner because we want people to become aware that people in other parts of the world need to survive. By buying crafts from a co-operative we help them survive," said Mrs. Quinonez.

"Also, it is a good way to show the things that Worldwide does — its projects and its dreams."

For more information on available resources or services, call Worldwide at 641-2525.

PITCH
IN



Niagara grad puts enthusiasm in work

Editor's Note: This article is one of an ongoing series of profiles on Niagara College alumni to salute the college's 25th anniversary.

By MARK DENIS
Staff Writer

Dealing with teenagers' problems in today's society is pondered by few people. Some face youth's problems energetically without myopically concentrating their time on the issue.

Claire Patterson, a youth worker for the Lincoln County School Board, has been employed at the Kernahan Park Secondary School for four years. Ms. Patterson began her position directly after graduating from a second-year Niagara College Social Service Worker program in 1988.

Ms. Patterson said there are very few in society who listen to what teenagers are really saying.

"I work on their value system and deal with the student's emotional and social needs and problems . . . it was a custom made job."

The school board has restrictive mandates concerning Ms. Patterson's work, however, she said they are flexible and open to new ideas. The position was created while Ms. Patterson was in her second-year of the Social Service Worker program.

Ms. Patterson is also a graduate of the Early Childhood Education program at the college.

Away from work, Ms. Patterson

professes to being a sports and leisure fanatic. "I cross-country ski and am involved in a variety of activities . . . I guess I'm versatile, always open to new experiences."

Volunteer and part-time work with various support groups, such as Women's Place in St. Catharines, is part of the cycle of Ms. Patterson's people agenda.

"Basically what it comes to is I like people."

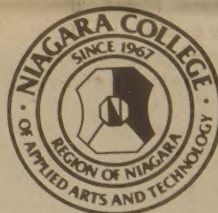
Dealing with her family, Ms. Patterson describes herself as a successful single mom. Her daughters, Colleen, 13, and Amiee, 12, are attending the Scott Lea Public School in St. Catharines.

Ms. Patterson said she enjoys her position and the area to the extent that she said, "I would have to find a darn good job in another area to consider leaving."

Niagara College facilitated Ms. Patterson's present position and she holds fond memories of the people she met here. She said she met "absolutely wonderful" people both times she attended Niagara. Every year or two, she said, she suggests the Social Service Worker program to her friends.

Vivian Bombary, a second-year Social Service Worker student, is gaining experience with Ms. Patterson.

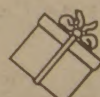
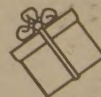
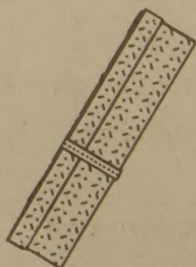
"I don't know where you would have to go to top it (the Social Service Worker program) at Niagara," Ms. Patterson said.



Niagara College Bookstore

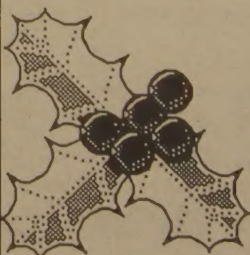
Merry Christmas

from
All of us at The Bookstore



Don't forget to get
your last minute
Christmas Gifts
at

The Bookstore!!!



Bessy credits 'hard work' for his success as chairman

"I hope to take this experience with me into the future"

By DOUG MORTON
Staff Writer

You could learn a valuable lesson from David Bessey if you enrolled in Niagara College as a path to success.

The 40-year-old chairman of the college's Board of Governors graduated first from the college's Construction Technician program to a job in the construction business, then to ownership in that firm and now to ownership in a U.S. construction firm. All the while keeping contact with Niagara College, he graduated from memberships on college advisory committees to the chairman of the board.

While such a success story may not happen to everyone, Mr. Bessey modestly puts it all down to "hard work."

"I had my sights set on the field of drafting in Grade 10," he said in an interview with the Niagara News shortly before his departure to Phoenix, Ariz. where he will continue to expand his high-level career in construction, one he attributes to the structure of the college system.

Commitment

"Because Ontario colleges offer such diversity, such a broad spectrum, I discovered more aspects to the construction business at Niagara College than I'd dreamed possible," he said.

After an initial disappointment about the cancellation of his desired program, drafting, when enrolling in 1969, Mr. Bessey said his choice of the broader-ranging construction tech program paid off in a big way.

"The three-year program looked at every aspect of the construction industry... The college gave me the kick start I needed," he said, adding, "Most importantly, the program was job-oriented, as the programs today are intended to be."

Mr. Bessey and his wife, Karen Bond, have lived in St. Catharines with their two boys, Kyle, 6, and Ryan, 3, until the recent sale of the business, Taro-Bescot Construction Inc. The move to Phoenix is under way.

The last two years culminated with the highlights of Mr. Bessey's Niagara College achievements.

"Being selected by the Council of Regents to chair the board represents the pinnacle of my long commitment to the college and community," he said. "The appointment was an honor that gave me a great personal wealth of satisfaction."

Disappointments

Mr. Bessey also chaired the Presidential Selection Committee that chose John Saso. The committee searched exhaustively for almost a year, hired a private consultant, received input from numerous community, college and constituent groups and finally chose Mr. Saso from a list of five highly qualified presidential candidates.

"We felt we narrowed it down to the right person... We got the cream of the crop," he said.

Although Mr. Bessey said his responsibilities were "always a great and rewarding experience," he added they "were not always a joy."

His worst experience came in 1986-87 when the board was forced to cut about six programs from the college curriculum. Budget problems arose when government funding came at a trickle. Students, faculty and staff who suffered from the cuts made personal appeals to have their programs left intact.

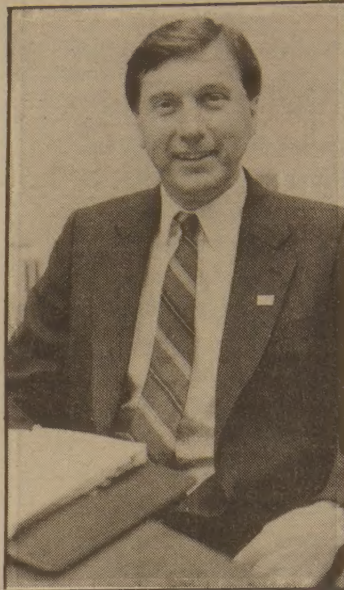
"We were forced to make agonizing decisions about the future of people's lives," Mr. Bessey said. "Although they thought we should, we couldn't be everything to everybody... It was a most difficult period."

Recognition

With his natural term on the board (six years maximum) up next month, the last tough decision he made was pulling up stakes in Canada to invest in the American construction industry.

"I'm concerned and discouraged by the economic climate in Canada. It's a difficult and risky time for the construction industry. The tax structure doesn't inspire much confidence."

When the opportunity arose to invest in a Phoenix housing and land development company, Mr. Bessey said, "I thought it was the right thing to do... at least my six-year-old sure does — now he



DAVID BESSEY

can swim all year round. And, my three-year-old is too young to care."

Mr. Bessey's organizational and leadership abilities will be missed by the college's governing body, a point well expressed by the next chairman, Bernard Baril, at Mr. Bessey's last official board meeting Nov. 14, after which the entire board applauded Mr. Bessey.

Describing his entire experience at Niagara College as "a learning experience," he closed echoing the sentiments many at the college have towards him. "I hope to take this experience with me into the future."

New chairman named

By DOUG MORTON
Staff Writer

Soon to become the new chairman of the Niagara College Board of Governors, Bernard Baril plans to deal with the college's growing deficit, increase revenue from other than government sources and keep students at the college for the full term of their programs.

While David Bessey remains chairman officially until the year's end, and Mr. Baril, of St. Catharines, is yet to be ratified as his replacement by the board, he said the board will confirm his nomination "as a formality" at the Dec. 12 meeting "unless there is a dissension" now unforeseen. Currently vice-chairman, a position normally reserved for the future chairman, Mr. Baril said he was the only nominee for the position.

Mr. Baril, also the executive committee chairman, has considerable business and economic experience as former vice-president of the Quebec and Ontario Paper Co. of Thorold. His skills will be tested dealing with the \$1.9-million college operating deficit.

"I'll try to guide the college under the auspices of (president) John Saso through a difficult financial period without damaging the college," Mr. Baril said.

"The Ontario government doesn't have all the money they would like to have. It's obviously going to affect us... Our grants (provincial funding grants for the college) will be lower this year and next year."

Mr. Baril said less reliance must be placed on receiving provincial

money. The college must "try to increase revenues from other sources," he said.

Ventures, the college's new body which attracts students and revenue by reaching out to the economic segment of the community, will play a big part in the "need to attract private sector support," Mr. Baril said. Non-government money also comes from the Niagara College Foundation, another fund-raising college body.

"We are also looking at ways to save on costs and expenses. With the economy not rebounding as predicted, we could be looking at another two or three years of recession... we may have to tighten our belts," he said. No cuts or specific proposals were named.

Mr. Baril said the governing policy for Niagara College "is a question of maintaining the excellent standards of the college" without reducing in any area.

Another key to maintain financial and academic viability, Mr. Baril said, is keeping the students in their programs for the full term of the program. "We must improve retention. It will help the students and the college—and ultimately—the community and the workforce."

"Through Ventures, the new campus and increased communication on all fronts, we will increase retention."

"We are looking at ways to improve communication with students to both attract them and keep them here... through communication we can help them (students) have a clear understanding of their goals and objectives."



Office of the President



PRESIDENT'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

As 1991 approaches an end, your Fall Term at Niagara College will soon be completed. I hope it has been a successful year for you and that you have derived a sense of accomplishment in your work. I know that you are looking forward to a happy week of holiday festivities as well as a well-deserved rest with your family and friends. Remember—keep it a safe holiday.

I look forward to having you back with us in January to continue your education.

Sincere best wishes for a Christmas Season filled with joy and happiness and a Healthy New Year.

John Saso

John Saso,
President.

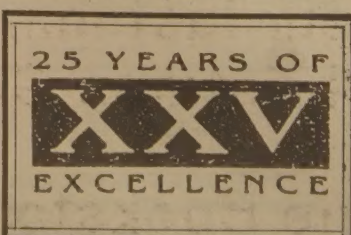
December, 1991

Wine and cheese party scheduled for Dec. 11

The annual Niagara College staff Christmas Wine and Cheese party, organized by the 25th Anniversary Social group, will be held Dec. 11 at the Welland campus cafeteria from 4 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Staff are encouraged to take a canned, non-perishable food item for the Christmas basket as admission.

The next 25th Anniversary dinner is scheduled for Friday, Dec. 13 at the Hospitality and Tourism Centre, 5881 Dunn St., Niagara Falls. For reservations, contact Beverly Williams at 374-7454, ext. 3602.

Lapel pins for Niagara College's 25th anniversary are on sale at the



Fashion Club Boutique and the college bookstore. Twenty-fifth Anniversary t-shirts and sweat-shirts are also available at the bookstore.

Editorials

Heed Christmas folly

This Christmas holiday play it safe. The subject of drinking and driving has come up many times and many times it is encouraged that we abide by the law.

Reduce Impaired Driving Everywhere police officers will be stopping vehicles and doing spot checks, especially since it's so close to Christmas and New Year's. In 1990, drinking and driving decreased by 22 per cent. There was a decrease in the number of people charged with drinking and driving offences through R.I.D.E.

Don't increase these numbers. Let's keep it as low as possible. Designate drivers or don't drink at all. Think of the serious consequences of drinking and driving: Not only the financial burden, but the social and moral suffering as the result of being charged with a criminal offence, or even worse — the taking of a life.

Drivers are starting to get the message about the dangers of alcohol, but, as with everything else, there is usually a rotten apple in the basket. Don't be that apple.

Hope to see you all back in January. Best of luck to those who will not be returning. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all staff and students here at Niagara College.

Joel Naphin

Feminism understood

It was two years ago today, Dec. 6, 1989, when Marc Lepine stalked the halls and classroom of the engineering building at the University of Montreal.

With his .223-calibre Strurm, Ruger semi-automatic rifle, he declared open season on women.

His hunting cry, "You're all a bunch of feminists" rang through the air before he gunned down the 14 females who died in his murderous rampage.

What Mr. Lepine did not understand, like so many others do not, is that feminism, in its truest form, is not a thing to be feared.

Feminism provides a different way of viewing the world.

When we observe an everyday event such as a sunset, we adorn ourselves with "culturally-learned" glasses which focus and adjust what we are witnessing. This does not mean, however, that any one way of viewing the sunset is "wrong" or "false" or that our glasses are out of focus. People have their own way of viewing the sunset, and the prescription for glasses is based on unique experience with sunsets.

Feminism, simply put, offers us a different prescription from which to view the world.

Feminism is an ideological approach to life.

One important ideological aspect is challenging the notion of equating "woman" with home, love and sex. If "woman" means these things, what "woman" doesn't mean is work, class and politics.

Feminism is a pair of glasses that allows males and females to examine everything that prevents women from being equal citizens in society.

Feminism is a wholistic approach to life. It is NOT bra-burning, female supremacy or male-bashing.

It is unfortunate Mr. Lepine did not understand this before he murdered 14 innocent women.

If all of us remember that feminism merely offers an alternative way of looking at the world, we can then start to work to prevent any future tragedies, and build a society where we are all respected for being people.

Susan Eaton

Letters to the Editor

Student weary of limits

Dear Editor:

It has come to my attention in the past few days that the Student Centre is losing an enormous source of income. What I am referring to is the opening of the pub section of "After Hours" at 3 p.m.

As a student of Niagara, it displeases me to see the college administration stall any chances of the new Centre to prove itself a worthy expenditure of student funds.

When most individuals decide to attend college, they have made a mature decision to improve their lives through education. Case in point, most college students are mature adults who think and make decisions for themselves. If an individual wishes to consume a lovely beverage with lunch or just to relax, why not give that individual the opportunity to do so? Do you know of any nice places to go? I do, the campus pub in the new Student Centre.

If students want a lovely beverage they are going to obtain one eventually. If there are no facilities within walking distance, they are going to drive to the nearest pub. After consuming a few lovely beverages they decide to return to classes; so they get into their cars and drive! Wait a minute, isn't that considered drinking and driving? Is this what the college administration wants the student body to think; that they encourage drinking and driving?

However, by not allowing the pub to be open for business earlier in the day, the college is indirectly doing two things: Encouraging

drinking and driving, and causing a loss of revenue for the Student Centre.

These are the facts:

—The pub's liquor licence states it is allowed to sell alcoholic beverages from 11 a.m. to 1 a.m. (Isn't that the same for other bars in the area?)

—The Centre is open from 8:30 a.m. to approximately 6 p.m. (the early closing time is due to lack of attendance from the student body) due to most students living out of town.

—The canteen, operated by Versa Foods which is always open is not run by the Centre. This means that no revenue for food sales is received by the Centre.

Since returning from a two month co-op, I have visited the pub on a regular basis. During the day usually around lunch, I find the Student Centre packed with people in both sections. By estimation there could be anywhere from 100 to 125 students using the facility at any given time.

By opening at 3 p.m. instead of ... maybe 11:30 a.m. the pub is losing 3.5 hours of revenue which is essential for operation.

As it is now, the pub can barely keep the staff working due to low revenue and poor "After Hours" attendance.

Let's see the college administration make a smart move and allow the Student Centre to increase its revenues the old fashioned way; instead of taking it directly from the pockets of the student body.

Sincerely,
Will Paroschy
Stationary Engineering

Red Cross team spirit : enthusiam welcomed

Dear Editor:

I would like to thank all the Law and Security students who worked so hard to publicize the Blood Donor Clinic. The Corpusculle Cuties - Chuck Crumb, Lori Eller, Dave Leslie, Belinda Rose, Greg Stewart and Scott Urquhart along with Draculas - James Donnelly and Lui Greco and Budy Blood Drop, Jr. - Vic Renzella helped to increase the awareness of the college community and boost the morale of anxious donors. Special mention should go to their makeup artists - Mary Cervone, Chris Allen, Kelly Bruin, Lori Eller and Cindy Olah.

Sue Denbester and Dave Ribarovic, along with their team of twenty students from LASA's section 2 blanketed the college walls with over 2,000 flyers. Mike Langlais, Nelson Robert and the majority of section 3, LASA distributed 2500 fluorescent "tickets" to every car in the parking lots. The wall and parking lot

clean-up crews from sections 4 and 5, LASA were well directed by Jane Packham, Dave Buttnee, Don Bessey and Jeff Homan.

In addition, I would like to express my gratitude to Marilyn Walkington and the Niagara News for the excellent coverage of the clinic, SAC vice-president of external affairs, Dale Deloughery for organizing the refreshments and supervising the sign out table, and to Kerry Nicholls and his helpers for setting up the gym and assisting the Red Cross volunteers with their equipment.

Every year I am delighted with the enthusiastic support received from the LASA and the Ambulance students. You are to be congratulated for your part in the success of this year's clinic.

Thanks everyone!

Jan Potten
psychology instructor
Vice-President
Welland Red Cross

Letters welcomed

The Niagara News welcomes letters from readers. Letters to the editor should be kept brief and must include the writer's name, program and telephone number. Letters must be signed, pen names will not be accepted. The editor reserves the

right to edit all letters, but will take every precaution to preserve the core of the writer's point of view or argument. Letters should be left at the newsroom of the Niagara News, Second floor, Simcoe Building by noon Wednesdays.

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The Niagara News is a practical lab for the Journalism-Print program, covering the college community and other areas of interest. Opinions expressed are not

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Opinion

Bullpits

Crash test dummies?

By **BARON BEDESKY**
Staff Writer

A lot of college students ride bicycles to school. They do it because they can't afford a motorized vehicle or because it is better for the environment. Proposed government legislation would make the wearing of helmets mandatory for all bicycle riders.

What a splendid idea! But why stop there? When walking to or around the college, we could slip on some ice and bang our heads on the pavement, or be hit by a car speeding out of the parking lot. To prevent such tragic oc-

currences, legislation should be passed ensuring we wear helmets any time we are not seated. This college is very dangerous; there are stone pillars, wooden desks with sharp corners, and hard floors everywhere. All are potentially lethal. Someone has got to stand up and protect us.

We risk our lives every time we drive a car as well. Seatbelts or airbags simply are not enough. Helmets and flame retardant suits could prevent so many more injuries.

Considering we all have the I.Q. of a small soap dish, our government ought to do something ensuring our safety. How else can we expect to survive life's perils?

Joy to the world

By **MARK DENIS**
Staff Writer

O.S.A.P. roasting on an open fire / Bob Rae nipping at your nose . . . Merry Christmas to you.

Not only are my funds scattering like the new-driven snow, the New Democratic government may abolish student grants.

Better to give than to receive. In keeping with the Christmas spirit, Don Mazankowski, the federal government's finance minister, "hinted that the economy may have slipped into a technical recession."

'For kids from one to 92.'
The usual Christmas cheer will be extended amongst families,

friends, mall tenants and repossession men.

'Sing we joy-ous all to-geth-er!'
Heartfelt appreciation, respect, tolerance and love will pervade the nation regardless of color, religion, language or constitutional debate.

'Heed-less of the wind and weath-er, Fa la la la la — la la la la!'

I wonder if Mr. Rae or Mr. Mulroney will consider the final verse of 'Good King Wenceslas' when next considering the plight of Canadians in the New Year. *'Therefore, Christian men be sure, Wealth or rank possessing, Ye who now will bless the poor Shall yourselves find blessing.'*
And, may I add, re-election.

Students express anger over evening class fees

Dear Editor:

I am a concerned student in the Social Service Worker program. I am working on a group assignment and would like to elicit a response from some fellow students with similar concerns. Until this current semester, full-time day students could attend evening courses of their choice with no extra fees. In September of this year, that nice little bonus of attending Niagara College was terminated.

In addition to the largely increased parking fees, student activity fees, and tuition fees, full-time students now have to pay for any evening courses. I'm sure that because of this factor, some students will not be able to complete their programs in the time they had estimated. Does the Student Administrative Council not realize that most students have limited income and cannot just fork out all kinds of money every time the college makes a change or increases costs? Has this cessation of free night courses affected you? The members of my group would like to know.

How do you feel about this change? Have you pursued any answers from higher levels, and if so, were you satisfied with the response you were given? If you

would like to register a complaint or an opinion, please contact me or one of the following members:

Wendy, 734-8312; Linda, 227-0693; Mary Ann, 732-6724; Vivian, 834-3119; Suzanne, 835-1628; Vivian Bomberly, Social Services Worker program.

Computer for Sale

Tandy 1000 HX
Computer featuring:
• MS-DOS operating system
• 256 K RAM, expandable to 640 K
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AIDS not just a homosexual disease

By **JASON DARRAH**
Staff Writer

Magic Johnson's press conference a few weeks ago announcing his contraction of the HIV virus has sent "shockwaves" through popular culture, precipitating increased sympathetic response to AIDS victims.

It's about time. The tragedy of the basketball legend's imminent death cannot be denied; everybody diagnosed with the acquired immune deficiency syndrome virus to date is terminal and medical researchers have little hope of discovering a cure before the end of this century.

The supremely gifted guard who transcended his sport, will probably eventually wither to a sullen skeleton draped in loose skin, only shaken by coughing, and occupied by staring at a world that recedes with each passing breath.

The horrific irony is Magic is the ideal person for AIDS to strike if Western society's attitudes toward the disease are to be transformed. He is one of the most idolized men in America, an inspiration to his peers and fans, and he is strikingly heterosexual.

There is no reason to doubt his assertion he contracted the deadly disease through heterosexual contact, and that is what is frightening egotistical jerks who were previously unwilling to face the truth about their irresponsibility.

AIDS is not a "fag" disease. The latest figures released by the World Health Organization indicate that 75 per cent of the reported cases of AIDS worldwide can be attributed to heterosexual contact.

In Europe and North America, society has largely identified the disease with a

marginalized population.

Admittedly, gay men and intravenous drug users were AIDS' first victims in society, and they remain the highest risk groups. However, while the incidence of AIDS for these groups decreases, the only "group" experiencing an increase in infection is heterosexuals — especially women.

The "straight" population must wake up *now* and stop ridiculing and estranging themselves from people with AIDS.

The possibility of infection inherent in unsafe sexual activity must be acknowledged. Since most of us don't have a bundle of money to dump on AIDS research, increased awareness and responsibility may be the only way to save a few friends or even ourselves.

Death is a high price to pay for intimacy.

Does After Hours mean drunks in class?

Dear Editor:

There seem to be some people on campus who feel that After Hours is being underutilized. The blame is being placed on the college administration for not allowing the sale of alcohol before three o'clock in the afternoon. This one-sided myopic viewpoint holds that opening the bar sooner and holding event earlier in the day would benefit us all by paying for the building.

The truth of the matter is that there is a much more important issue at stake here. There are certain questions we should be asking ourselves before we rush to the bar.

First of all, why do we have a bar on campus? I know, because all the other post-secondary institutions have one. That is a good answer. After all, there would be no point to college life if we did not include the opportunity to learn first-hand about one of the most dangerous social problems in the world today — alcoholism.

The next question we should be asking ourselves is why there is already concern about After Hours' viability. Did those who planned the centre not research the costs and demand sufficient-

ly before they went ahead and spent the Student Administrative Council money? Did no one realize that there would be a huge difference in usage between a university pub (which gets much of its business due to on-campus residence) and a college pub (where everybody goes home at night)?

The third question is a matter of planning also. Could it be that the centre is a poor drawing card, not because of the hours, but because of the events scheduled? As they teach in first-year marketing, maybe SAC are not meeting the wants and needs of its target market.

And, finally, do these people who want to open the bar earlier have any idea what they are talking about? Do they really believe that those who drink during school harm no one but themselves? If you have ever tried to concentrate on a class at 4:30 some afternoon while the drunks in your class carried on like so many drunken fools, you would not think so.

Please, keep After Hours just that. After Hours. Not only should the bar not be opened

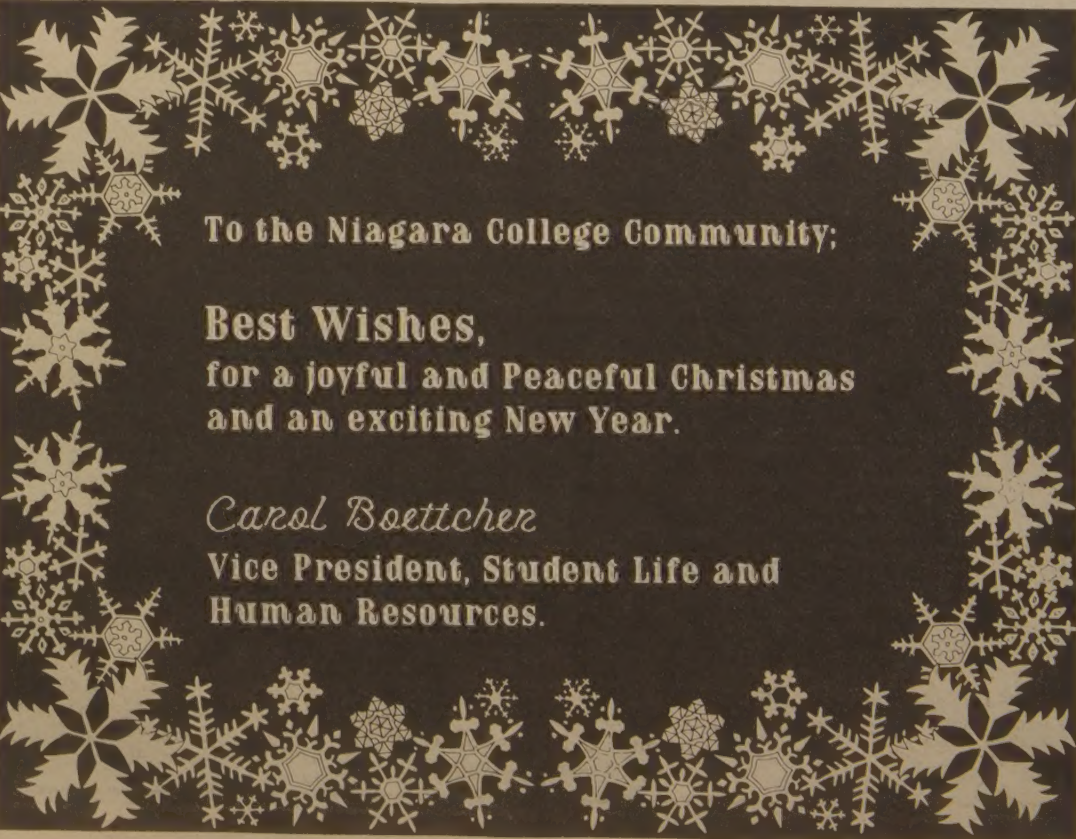
sooner, it should not be opened until at least all full-time classes are finished. If the powers that run the place cannot make it work under reasonable conditions, maybe they could make it into something useful — like more classrooms.

Tony Vandermaas
Business administration

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To the Niagara College Community:

Best Wishes,
for a joyful and Peaceful Christmas
and an exciting New Year.

Carol Boettcher
Vice President, Student Life and
Human Resources.

Profile

Vietnam

van der Slagt's mission completed

By CINDY HARRIMAN
Staff Writer

A trip to Vietnam proved to be a success for Hans van der Slagt, Niagara College's vice-president of administration, who prepared a report outlining a mission to help the Vietnamese with their college system.

Mr. van der Slagt arrived home Monday, Nov. 18, from a three week trip to Vietnam. He was joined by two representatives from other colleges, and the project leader from the Association of Canadian Community Colleges.

Mr. van der Slagt said the group's mission was to identify ways the Canadian college system can work with the Vietnamese system to help improve the latter. He was responsible for preparing the report.

He said there have been no articulation agreements yet — that would be the second step.

The trip was "very full, very busy, and very productive."

The Vietnamese believe college is part of the answer to meeting training requirements and getting the economy back on track, Mr. van der Slagt said.

"They have agreed with us that there are some real possibilities that our colleges get together with those in Vietnam (to help them grow)."

"The college system there is in its infancy."

Mr. van der Slagt said Vietnam has a good education system — up to high school level — with a literacy rate of 90 per cent.

"They're very aware of their strengths and weaknesses," he said, noting a main weakness is that they have very few diploma granting institutions (colleges), and "those they have are very narrow in their scope."

He said the Vietnamese want broad base colleges which specialize in different areas. Currently, most of their colleges are privately funded and offer subject training mainly in English and computers because people see taking those courses as a way of getting a better paying job.

"The college system there is in its infancy."

He said there is a high percentage of unemployed youths in Vietnam because their "economy is quite stagnant" and graduates don't always have the training they need.

Mr. van der Slagt was able to meet with people from about 40 different institutions. He spoke to educational representatives and leaders of private colleges and universities about how Canadian colleges help small businesses.

"It was really rewarding to see how well the Vietnamese were informed about the college system."

Many of them have been to Canada and the United States. Although they have little experience with it, "they're really clued in to what the North American system is all about."

Mr. van der Slagt said Vietnam

is still an economically poor country but it has undergone some dramatic changes. Until several years ago, the economy was very tightly controlled by the government; now many institutions have been released from government control and private businesses are flourishing.

He said colleges, universities and factories have much more freedom now without government interference.

Mr. van der Slagt's group stayed in Hanoi, the capital of Vietnam. Hanoi is in northern Vietnam where the central government is located.

They also stayed in Ho Chi

Minh City (formally Siagon), in southern Vietnam. It is more affluent in the south, partly because most of the businesses are there, Mr. van der Slagt said.

"(The Vietnamese) were extremely warm and friendly and anxious to see us well looked after."

The Vietnamese Union of Science and Technology Association and the Ministry of Education in Training held banquets for the group.

Mr. van der Slagt said "the food was wonderful" in Vietnam. Vegetables, fruit and shrimp were plentiful, he said, adding the cooking is influenced by the French.

Frog, pigeon, turtle, and exotic seafoods such as squid and octopus are among some of the foods in the Vietnamese diet.

He said he was surprised to see very little evidence of war damage.

"In the cities, a lot of the damage seems to be rebuilt."

In general, the Vietnamese don't own their own houses. They live in very small apartments and work long hours — many have more than one job. The average salary is \$30 per month (Canadian), most of which goes towards food.

The main form of transportation is bicycling. In the south,

where it is economically more affluent, a lot of people own scooters. Cars are owned by very few citizens.

Vietnam is a country of 68 million people — three times the size of Canada — with 80 per cent of the population living in the country. As a result, they are trying to develop industries in rural areas to fulfill their rural based needs.

"The Vietnamese are very entrepreneurial and very hard working. . . They seem to be very anxious to get on with their lives and I'm sure they're going to do it."

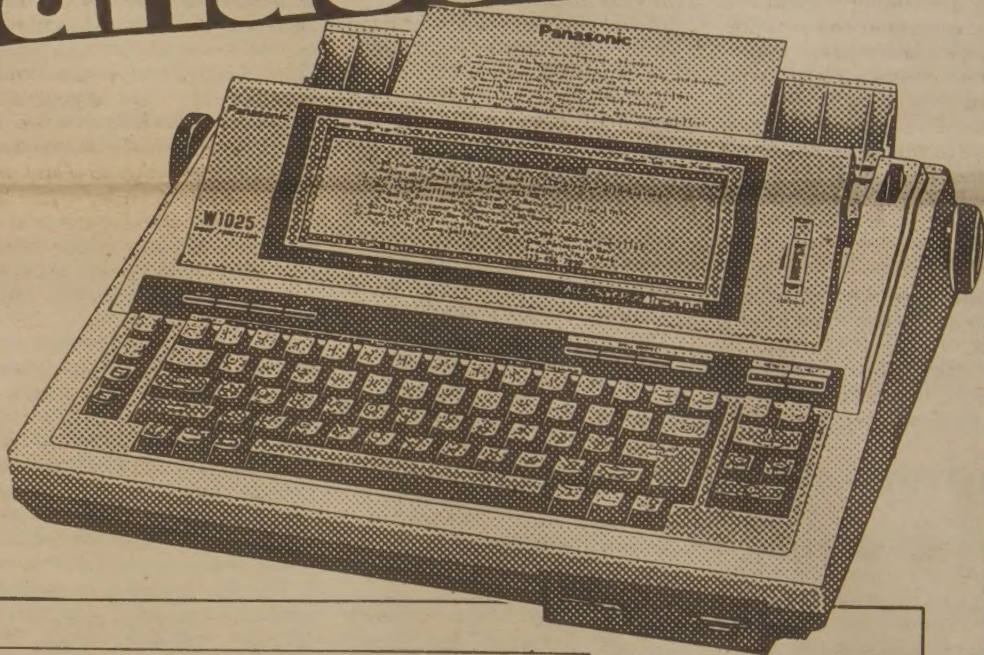
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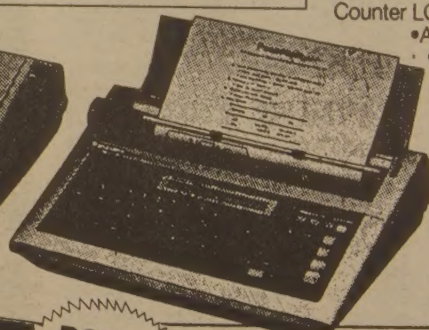
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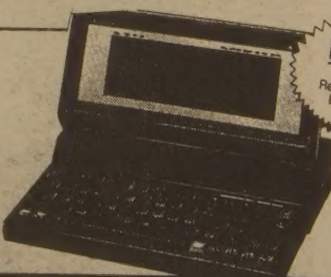
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Winter Festivals Around the World



Students from the General College English as a Second Language course, pictured here, gathered last week to discuss their versions of winter

festivals. They are joined by instructor Mary Lou Eden (second from right).

Photo by Carolyn Mullin

By CAROLYN MULLIN
and SUSAN EATON
Staff Writers

With the end of first term looming, most Niagara College students are looking beyond impending exams and towards the long-awaited three-week break. Canadians anticipate a traditional Canadian Christmas, with a Christmas Eve service, turkey dinner with trimmings, and a full stocking from Santa. However, other students anticipate celebrations reflective of their ethnic background.

In November, several students were interviewed who are either new Canadian citizens, landed immigrants, or are studying in Canada. They spoke about their country, traditional celebrations at this time of year, and what Canadian traditions they have adopted.

JAPAN

Mika Ito, Ekio Mita and Masaki Kobayashi are three Japanese students studying English in Canada this year. Although Japan is not a Christian country, there are rituals Japanese families observe.

New Year's, marked by a national holiday from Jan. 1 to Jan. 3, is the most important tradition.

Ms. Ito and her family, like many other Japanese families, attend Shrine and pray for good health and happiness on New Year's Day. They eat a special dish called "Soba", a type of Japanese noodle traditionally thought to promote long life.

In her family, Ms. Ito said gift-giving means each gives the younger family members money. The youngsters can then buy toys or put the money in a savings account.

Ms. Mita, who also attends Shrine on New Year's Day, spends the holiday with her family. Special foods, which include raw fish, beans, seafood, ham and beef dishes, are a highlight.

Ms. Mita said if she has the time, she likes to attend these special meals wearing a kimono, the traditional dress.

Although she has never spent a Christmas in Canada, Ms. Mita already noted the difference of decorating homes' exteriors with lights. In Japan, only the inside of store windows are decorated with Santas and Christmas trees.

Mr. Kobayashi said Japanese Christmas trees are decorated with special festive balls and Santa dolls. The Japanese don't generally observe Christian aspects, but they adopted the Santa myth.

He said children place stockings beside their pillows, and Santa (alias Mom) fills them.

Canadian and Japanese December festivals differ because the Japanese send New Year's greetings instead of Christmas greetings.

This year Ms. Ito, Ms. Mita and Mr. Kobayashi will be spending the holidays with their host families. AKEMASHITE OMEDETO GOZAIMASU (Happy New Year) in Japanese.

ROMANIA

Camelia Nicoara, formerly of Romania, is anticipating her second Christmas in Canada. Ms. Nicoara recalls a Romanian village Christmas being steeped in tradition and religion.

She indicated there is a present exchange, however, this is not necessarily the holiday's highlight. Instead, she said she looks forward to the Christmas Eve caroling, when the village's younger generations go door-to-door singing Christmas caroles.

Young boys, between the ages of five and 12, have a special role. They carry a special wooden plaque topped with two wooden cows and glitter. A bell on the bottom provides the background music for the singing.

Carolers are invited inside each house to perform a play, similar to our Christmas pageant, featuring three characters, a priest, a soldier and God, who make speeches about the coming of Christ.

Sărbători Ferice

Romanians spend Christmas day with family members, said Ms. Nicoara, eating specially prepared dishes of cabbage rolls, pork sausages, fried meatballs, french salads and festive bakery goods.

In Canada, Ms. Nicoara indicated she and her husband have adapted to the Canadian turkey-dinner custom.

SARBATORI FERICITE and CRACIUN FERICIT means Happy Holidays and Merry Christmas in Romania.

CHINA

Sheng Dan Kuai Le means Merry Christmas in Mandarin Chinese. Cantonese Chinese say Sing Dan Five Lok. Either way, most Chinese look forward to the Chinese New Year, rather than Christmas, as the season's most important holiday.

Stacey Bai and Oylin Wong, from China, are classmates in Mrs. Eden's English as a Second Language class. Ms. Bai arrived alone seven weeks ago and will celebrate Christmas with her classmates. She said she is looking forward to a three-week break.

Ms. Wong has been in Canada nine years with her entire family. Consequently, they have adopted the traditional gifts, tree and food, although Ms. Wong said she is not too enthused about eating turkey.

Both Ms. Bai and Ms. Wong mentioned the Chinese New Year as bringing the "big parties and festivals."

圣诞快乐

Bing Luo is a visa student who has relatives in the region. She said she will spend the holidays with her parents but she is more

enthused about the Spring Festival, after the Chinese New Year.

HONG KONG

Lu Yau came to Canada from Hong Kong three months ago. She described Christmas at home as "fantastic".

"Everyone goes out and buys gifts. They open gifts on Dec. 26, but usually we open a gift on the day we get it. People decorate the streets, forming pictures with lights.

"Only rich people have trees because they have the room. Most people live in small flats. They don't have the room to store a tree and to throw it away would be a waste."

聖誕快樂

Ms. Lau said young people go to parties at Christmas, while others attend all night church services.

People in Hong Kong celebrate two New Years, she said. They observe Jan. 1, but they also have festivities for the Chinese New Year. They rent spaces in the market to sell special plants. Three days before New Year's they clean house, two days before they clean themselves, and then everyone must go to their parents' home for dinner on New Year's Eve.

During the holiday Ms. Lau said she hopes to travel to Toronto, Montreal and Quebec City with a friend.

GREECE

Καλά Χριστούγεννα

is how they say Merry Christmas in Greece, according to Nectaria Papadimitriou. She will be in Canada until the end of January, so she will spend the holiday with her aunt.

She said Christmas in Greece is not celebrated as in Canada. People have a tree, but don't exchange gifts. Immediate families gather for turkey dinner and go to church on Christmas day. She said small children earn money by singing caroles at houses.

Parties and dances provide entertainment on New Year's Eve in Greece. Ms. Papadimitriou will not stray from this tradition while in Canada. She said she will be attending a Greek dance in St. Catharines this year.

POLAND

Saying Merry Christmas for Derek Klaus means "Wesołych Świąt." Mr. Klaus, in Canada two years, will be going home for the first time in four years.

He said Polish celebrations are similar to Canadian ones, mixing religious ceremony with the Santa Claus myth. His extended family assembles for feasts and fun over three days. They eat traditional Polish food and exchange gifts, but he said they don't decorate the outside of the house because electric energy is expensive.

ETHIOPIA

In Ethiopia, Christmas is "Gana", according to Dereje Tesfaye. Mr. Tesfaye has been in Canada for two years. Ethiopians follow the Asian calendar; Jan. 7 is the day for families and food.

"All my relatives gather in the same house and must stay together until 1:30 p.m. After that, the teens go out for a 24-hour party at a night club."

He said they eat spicy food, have a tree with few decorations, and exchange gifts on the next day.

This year, Mr. Tesfaye said he will spend the holiday in Montreal with his brother, not to celebrate, but just to have a vacation.

MALAYSIA

Lieu Shen Lou is from Malaysia but he said his country celebrates the Chinese New Year too.

When asked what Christmas means for him, Mr. Lou said, "Christmas day is boring. Everything is closed."

For the Chinese New Year "there is special food... lots of seafood, and firecrackers. On the eve we sing a special song."

Mr. Lou will celebrate in Canada with his brother this year.



International students, from left, Bing Lou, Eiko Mita, Nectaria Papadimitriou, Masaki Kobayashi, Mika Ito, and Lu Yau, took a break

from the Intensive English as a Second Language class to discuss their versions of winter festivals.

Photo by Carolyn Mullin

Perspectives of the Christmas Season

Homelessness: It's not just at Christmas time

By DOUG MORTON
Staff Writer

"She could be your mother," a Welland social worker said of an elderly woman, a stroke victim, living — with no other choice — in a condemned building in downtown Welland.

At a local art centre soon, just \$5 admission allows Christmas shoppers a chance to view and buy fine gifts, including celebrity decorated doors.

Through the doors of Holy Trinity Church each day homeless people and street people of Welland pass to eat in the soup kitchen. The admission is free. Christmas there has no tone of celebration.

"If every man and woman went home tonight, looked at their mother or father or son or daughter, then imagined them on the street, you might have some idea how life is for these people," Richard Boutin, a worker at the Welland Housing Help Centre, said.

The help centre, operating out of Holy Trinity Church on Division Street, is a project of the Welland Community Resource Action Centre. They do what they can to help street people and people with housing problems: provide food, health assistance, counselling, and temporary shelter.

Basically, at the church soup kitchen, they give the needy a stomach full of hot food and, if needed, a warm place to sleep. When possible, the centre helps people about to lose their homes or be evicted. They work with and are partially funded by the Region (Community and Social Services) to help people handle the maze of welfare.

Mr. Boutin said the Christmas season adds no special meaning to a growing social problem in

Welland.

"People think of us at Christmas because they think of generosity," Mr. Boutin said. "They should think of us all year round...homelessness doesn't happen only once a year. They only get colder at Christmas."

"There's a steady increase in numbers of homeless in Welland, and it's getting worse quickly," Mr. Boutin said, counting 14 people for November. He named the main cause as "the vicious old welfare cycle." Welfare being a fixed form of income, he explained, rents and other living expenses soon surpass them, driving people further and further into poverty — and eventually into the streets.

Furthermore, the problem grows worse, he said, because working people are now appearing who face loss of home or eviction.

"If working people can't make it, like young working mothers with children, think of people on welfare . . . and young people, without jobs, leaving home," he said.

Mr. Boutin traces Welland's welfare misery to continuous federal government cutbacks in all areas of funding. "It trickles down," he said. "The province gets less, the municipalities get less, the people on welfare get less and we get less . . . so the whole thing gets worse."

"It's a very vicious circle," he added.

Mr. Boutin said he was upset by a media report last Christmas season portraying some of the victims of the cycle of poverty leading to the street, to a joyless and cold Christmas.

"These people have pride," he said.

"How would you like your name in the news when you live in a condemned building with no heat and no groceries?"

. . . and, no Christmas tree.

For those who need assistance...

Basket drive

Not all Wellanders will celebrate the festive season with a bounty of food and gifts. For many residents, food and shelter are top priorities even though the majority of us take them for granted. It's easy this year to help the unfortunate minority, just give food or cash donations to the Welland Housing Help Centre, Richard Boutin, a centre worker, said.

The help centre is running a "home Christmas basket drive" to help feed the needy in Welland.

Mr. Boutin said donations can be left at the centre, 77 Division St. (Holy Trinity Church), between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., closed at noon hour.

The needy can pick-up the food baskets at 72 Main St. E. between Dec. 16 and Dec. 20 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., also closed at noon hour.

Food drive

If you live in the town of Pelham and you'd like to help the food bank there, but are unable to make it to drop off location, the group Pelham Cares offers a solution tomorrow, Dec. 7.

Volunteers for a food drive will go door-to-door collecting non-perishable food items between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Residents in Fonthill and Fenwick are asked to leave two items on their doorstep in the specified time frame, which will also be marked by the appearance of fire engines on local streets. Other residents in the vicinity can leave the items at the Lions Hall on Highway 20 or the Time Square Avondale on Metter Road.

For more information call Gerry Berkhout at 893-2632.

Toys for tots

The rowdy friends of CHOW radio are offering a down-home country music way to square dance into the holiday season while helping needy citizens of Welland and vicinity.

A "toys for tots" concert will shake the Ukrainian Cultural Centre on McCabe Road, all afternoon Sunday, Dec. 8. Admission is free, but a new toy or non-perishable food item is requested.

This family concert, from 1 p.m. to 9 p.m., features various bands and acts including the Vic Belcastro band, Country Connections, Rough Cut, Northern Country, the Tweety Birds, Roy and Shirl of Country Dawn, and of course, Santa himself.

Toys collected will be distributed by the charity Community Christmas Toys to economically disadvantaged families. The food items will be directed to the needy by the Community Resources and Action Centre.



Yvonne Fabiani, 5, and Derek Fabiani, 3, are just two of the many children who have visited Santa at his magic palace

located at Welland's Seaway Mall. The look on Derek's face shows the visit is serious business.

Photo by Armando Barbarito

Santa Claus: A name that promotes universal goodwill and charity

By CAROL ANNE HUNT
Staff Writer

We now know the truth! All the facts are in, and it's selling papers.

There really was a Santa Claus! In fact, as a result of the real Santa Claus, there evolved many facsimiles of the man for many different countries and cultures, all done without the aid of media, long before medieval times.

Santa Claus' real name was St. Nicholas. He was, in life, the bishop of Myra, in Asia Minor in the fourth century, and he became a celebrated Christian saint after his death.

St. Nicholas was known as a kind and generous man who regularly stole into the night and left food, money, and gifts in the houses of the poor and needy. He reportedly performed miracles —

including restoring to life three students who had been murdered by a dastardly innkeeper.

Stories of his kindness spread far and wide, and eventually, his persona took on godlike and magical qualities, including an element of the pagan Father Christmas, who figured in mid-winter celebrations and rituals in England.

St. Nicholas became the patron saint of the young and of students, but he also protected sailors, maidens, and — yes — pawnbrokers.

Holland is the place where the earliest Santa Claus originated. Known as St. Nicholas, his name evolved to Sinter Klaas, which the Dutch settlers in Manhattan brought with them in 1624.

Sinter Klaas, in Holland, rewarded good children with toys and treats, but left a whip for those who were bad. He was portrayed as stern but kindly and resembled a bishop complete with miter and red robes.

Throughout Europe, a Santa figure was adopted and portrayed in each country's own fashion.

In England, as mentioned, Father Christmas, bedecked in flowing red robes of fur and a loose hood, brought the Christmas spirit to folks. In France, le Petit Noel left gifts for children. In Germany, Christ Kindl, or Christ Child — an angelic messenger of Jesus — was the perpetrator of the annual toy-a-thon. In Norway, St. Nicholas was assisted by Kriss Kringle who actually owned the sleigh and reindeer (which originated in Russia).

Feminists will be encouraged to hear Italy had a female Santa Claus, Befana. Russia, too, had a lady Santa called Baboushka. However, the powers-that-be deemed it necessary to change

that legend, and now Russia has Grandfather Frost.

And in Central America, half a world away, in Catholic-dominated areas, the infant Jesus acts as a Santa and gives gifts to the children.

Today, Santa is a composite of all these St. Nicholas ideals, and the stuff of which legends are made. What is amazing is how information about him travelled, and how each and every country thought him important enough to develop an annual event around him, even before media was around to act as a catalyst.

The common ground — the children — is obviously of consequence the world over to concoct a legend that promotes goodwill and charity without years of consultation by world leaders. Here is one thing on which all countries seem to agree. Isn't it too bad it's not an every day thing.

Toy drive in college

If the Niagara College Non-Traditional Students Association has its way, many more children will find a present under the tree this Christmas.

The newly formed association is launching a toy drive in which everyone in the college is encouraged to donate either a toy, book or game by dropping it off in the Welland campus's room S212 (Simcoe Building) anytime.

Either new items or used items in good condition are acceptable. Cash donations, and Canadian Tire money is more than welcome.

All donations will be turned over to Community Christmas Toys, a Welland organization committed to helping underprivileged children and their families during the holidays.

While items are being collected, they will be placed in a display window near room S212 so everyone can monitor the drive's success.

This year, give a child hope

By LYNN DRAPEAU
Staff Writer

It's there, shadowed on the gaunt, expressionless faces of the children, bleak as a cold winter's day. It's there, shining in the unshed tears of the mother's sorrow and desperation. It's there, reverberating in the wearied bones of the hard laboring father.

Need. All around, people are starving. They are your neighbors, your friends, your children's friends. They are destitute and despondent. Look at your life, at your clothes, at your car. Compare them to the lives of the people imprisoned by their poverty, living in their hovels, traveling on the worn soles of their shoes. They have nothing: no clothes, no food, no Santa.

Imagine Christmas the way a five-year-old child might. Every night, after reading his favorite

bedtime Christmas story, he goes to bed dreaming of the Santa in his fantasies. He believes Santa will make all his wishes come true and save him from his life of indigence. He is ignorant. And who will tell him the truth? Who will tell him Santa Claus does not exist? Who will inform the innocent child of the fraudulent hero?

Mommy will. Mommy, with her heart shattering into a thousand pieces, must dash her child's dreams and fantasies and tell her tragically thin little boy with the large trusting eyes that there will be no Santa this year. She must tell him that Santa doesn't exist and that Christmas is a fallacy created by a rich society filled with cheerfully cherub little boys and girls. She must tell him that Christmas is only for the rich, not for the poor.

How would you feel if you were the mother of that child? To break a child's heart into a million

splintering fragments during the most cheerful season of the year is wretched. How would you feel if you were that child? It would be overwhelmingly devastating. The loneliness and feelings of betrayal would be cataclysmic.

It doesn't, however, have to be that way.

Christmas should be a happy time, a time of giving and receiving. Don't let the haunted eyes of the needy sink into their brittle skulls from lack of hope in life, from lack of faith in people. Give to the poor. In doing so, you will be richer than you can imagine. You will have sustained at least one person's hopes and dreams, and you will have turned a child's

Christmas dream into a reality. Be a Santa and give without receiving more than the satisfaction of helping a fellow human being. That's what Christmas is all about. Give them hope — it's all they have.

Parents, volunteers: assist children in receiving gifts

Not everyone can experience the joy of giving over the holiday season due to economic pressures of one sort or another. In and around Welland, a group of volunteers make it possible for some economically disadvantaged families to give their loved ones toys, candy and clothes donated by more fortunate citizens.

Community Christmas Toys collects the new donated items from about 20 locations in Welland and provides registered parents or guardians a chance to choose gifts for their children.

Marjorie Frith, chairperson for the charity group, says if the collection is successful, children may receive up to \$75 worth of gifts, while they would have gotten nothing without the service.

People wishing to benefit from the service are encouraged to register before Dec. 20 at the "Santa Claus Shop" in the Family Robbins Plaza, 671 Niagara North St., between 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. They will then be able to pick up the gifts between Dec. 10 and Dec. 20.

Interested volunteers, or anyone wanting to know more about the organization, are invited to come down to the shop or phone 732-5594. All are welcome to attend an open house tonight from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Toy box locations, other than the head office, to drop off new toys, candy or clothing include: After Hours Pub; The Niagara News newsroom, S212; McDonald's, Niagara Street; The Evening Tribune, East Main Street; the Firehall, East Helles Street; City Hall, East Main Street; Leisure World in Seaway Mall, Niagara Street; Shoppers Drug Mart in Rose City Plaza, Ontario Street; CHOW Radio station, Forks Road and The Guardian Express building, East Main.

Heating bills, winter clothing expenses contribute to blues

Christmas holidays are rapidly approaching and most students are giddy with the anticipation of leaving the worries of college behind and spending three weeks with family and a smorgasboard of food.

Some students aren't so lucky and school worries are replaced with holiday worries: "How am I going to provide a Christmas meal or gifts for my children?"

For Sheri Webber, 21, a second-year business administration student at Niagara College, the burden of supporting herself and providing for her two-year-old son, alone, is amplified during the Christmas season, when celebrations and the joy of gift giving are luxuries she can't afford.

"I have no money and I'm still waiting for my OSAP," said Ms. Webber.

Living with her son, Brandon, she depends on mother's allowance to get by. Even when she's not in school full-time she says she uses mother's allowance because the high paying jobs that would cover her expenses just aren't out there. Then the crunch comes near Christmas when bills for things like increased heating, winter clothing and books for the new term pile-up on top of daycare, and food for two months.

If it weren't for various community services it would be a bleak Christmas season, after a difficult year. Ms. Webber and others like her have faced the fact that times are tough and one shouldn't be ashamed to utilize the services of volunteer organizations.

Ms. Webber is considering registering at Welland's Community Christmas Toys simply because "it would give Brandon a better Christmas."

The organization collects donations of new toys, children's clothing and candy from locations around Welland and encourages parents in need of assistance to choose items worth between \$60 and \$75.

Social assistance recipients facing bare cupboards can receive food baskets and grocery store vouchers from Welland's Community Baskets campaign, organized by the Community Resource and Action Centre.

It won't be an extravagant Christmas this year for Sheri and Brandon but she knows with the help of the local service it will be bearable. "It takes the burden off me in hard times and Brandon gets something."



Donations for laughs

A non-perishable food item, an unwrapped toy or a cash donation were the prices some students paid for admission to the Yuk Yuk's show at After Hours yesterday.

Students enjoyed the 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. performance of the three Yuk Yuk comedians, David Merry, Ronnie Edwards and Brent Piaskosai.

The food donations will be for-

warded to the Community Resource and Action Centre Christmas Food Basket. Toy donations will be forwarded to Community Christmas Toys. Both are Welland organizations. The Student Administrative Council, in conjunction with the Social Services students, was responsible for organizing the donation box.

Donations will be accepted until Dec. 13.

Volunteers needed

People dependent on social assistance are eligible to receive Christmas food baskets from the Welland Community Resource and Action Centre.

Donations received at various locations in Welland, including the After Hours pub, as well as local grocery store food vouchers, will be given to needy citizens,

after they register at the Holy Trinity Church, at 77 Division St. Baskets are to be picked up from Dec. 6 to Dec. 20.

Volunteers are needed for sorting and packing and are asked to call the headquarters at 788-0744, or drop-in at the church.

The headquarters' hours are weekdays, 10 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Eight-day festival

Hanukkah may mean different things for different people, but the Jewish festival means celebration to all.

The festival began on Sunday at sundown and continues for eight days. For the religious scholar, it is a commemoration of an historical event, but for the North American Jewish child, the week means parties, presents and food.

The central theme behind the celebration is the miracle of the oil. Over 2,000 years ago, Syrian oppressors in Jerusalem tried to

force the Jews to give up their culture and worship Greek gods. Judah the Maccabee drove the Syrians out of the Temple with pure oil.

Legend says there was only enough light to burn for one day, but miraculously lasted for eight days. Therefore, the Hanukkah of today lasts for eight days, and is known as the Festival of Lights.

Today a candle is lit for every day of the festival on eight-branched candelabra called the menorah.

Holiday comforts simply a memory

By DIANA HARRIS
Staff Writer

They are all ages. For some, Christmas is just another day. For others, it is a bitter day filled with memories of Christmas past — the homeless.

Dan Labonte, the sole street-worker at the Housing Help Centre in St. Catharines, said the largest group using the centre are the youth, especially the 16- to 18-year-olds. "They are out of school and there are no jobs available for them because of the current economic situation," he said in a telephone interview this week. People with mental illness also comprise a large percentage of the centre's clients.

The St. Catharines Housing Help Centre, one of several throughout the province, opened about 1½ years ago. It was the result of an affordable housing access initiative. The centre provides referral and counselling services to people who are homeless, or in need of temporary accommodation or those seeking information. The province provides funds for 80 per cent of the centre's operating costs. The remaining 20 per cent is funded by the municipalities, said Mr. Labonte.

Patrick Arsenault, 27, a second-year social services student at Niagara College, works with Mr. Labonte at the Housing Help Centre twice a week for his course placement. "I went into the tren-

ches (on the streets) with Dan and I was shocked at what I saw," he said.

Until grates were placed over the entrances to tunnels under the Highway 406 bridge spanning Twelve Mile Creek, people of all ages and all walks of life used to live there.

"I saw firepits and cardboard boxes and crates where people used to live and sleep," said Mr. Arsenault.

A video produced last year by Niagara College, *Sanctuary*, outlined the lives of two people who lived in the Hwy. 406 bridge tunnels. One had a mental illness and the other was a youth gang member.

Mr. Labonte said he feels his job is to "abilitate" the people who use the services of the centre. "We try to enable people so they can put their lives 'back on track'. I don't impose judgment on people, instead I allow them to make mistakes or fail. At some point they will succeed (find a job, training program or a home), and realize that they have helped themselves. That realization builds their self-image."

Mr. Arsenault said the homeless hear about Dan and approach him for help. The centre directs or refers people to soup kitchens, food banks or to emergency shelters. "The youth find it difficult to go to the soup kitchens because they are offended by the people looking in the windows," said Mr. Arsenault.

Help make a wish come true

Pick a doily give a gift

Santa Claus may be coming to town, but there will be empty spaces under many trees this year.

The Christmas Wish Tree gives staff and students of Niagara College an opportunity to make the wishes of needy children and lonely seniors come true.

Linda Maidens, buildings operations manager, started this innovative idea last year and set up a tree in the library. Due to the excellent response, she now has two trees — an artificial one in the library, a real one in the lobby of Hennepin Hall. "Every name got taken last year," she said. Accompanying the tree in the library is a food box destined for the Christmas basket exchange in Niagara Falls. Donations should consist of non-perishable, dry and canned goods.

The trees are covered with colored doilies, each with a name and an age; silver and gold for the seniors, pink and blue for the girls and boys.

To participate, pick a doily and purchase a suitable gift. Attach the doily to the wrapped gift and place it under the tree by Dec. 18. Ms. Maidens will personally deliver the gifts on Dec. 23 or Dec. 24.

"The children are of local families where parents are unemployed and times are very, very tough," Ms. Maidens said. The families register with the Community Christmas Toys in the Robbins Plaza, Welland. The seniors live at Sunset Haven Home for the Aged, Welland, and there are those who have no one with which to share the holiday season.

Ms. Maidens has 20 seniors ranging in ages from 70 to 96 and expects to have between 25 and 30 children, of all ages.

Ms. Maidens said the Wish Tree is special because "you're giving a present to somebody" as opposed to throwing an unwrapped gift



Linda Maidens co-ordinated the Christmas Wish Tree program, and with the help of college staff and students will make this season a merry one for seniors and children.

Photo by Abigail Kelly

in a bin. "The names give it a personal touch," she said.

Ms. Maidens said the best present for seniors is toiletries, however, sweets are always a sure thing. She said she realized teenagers are harder to buy for and suggests music, books, or batteries for their walkmans.

She has not limited the price of the gift, instead "left it entirely up to the individual." She recommends departments pool resources to buy a gift. "I want to get as many people involved as possible," she said. Last year, she

bought a 13-year-old girl a music box and some chocolates.

She said she would love to initiate the same program at the college's Niagara Falls and St. Catharines campuses, however, she will need volunteers.

In addition to the Christmas Wish Tree, the Community Christmas Toys has an open house today from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Ms. Maidens attended last year with her children who "realized how lucky they really are."

The Wish Tree brings cheer to what would otherwise be a bleak Christmas day.

Christmas parties on campus

Day care

To get into the Christmas spirit, the children of the Niagara College Day-care Centre will hold their annual Christmas party on Wednesday, Dec. 18 in the Welland campus gym at 3 p.m.

The children of the centre are planning some special entertainment for the parents before, of course, a special visit from Santa Claus. There will be entertainment by the E. L. Crossley Band and door prizes. Refreshments will follow the festivities at the Day-care Centre.

Accounting

The second- and third-year Niagara College accounting students are in for a treat on Dec. 13.

"Students from the first-year program have organized a Christmas party, allowing the second- and third-year students a break from their heavy work loads," said Clara Casucci-McLeod, accounting program co-ordinator, at the Welland campus.

Business

The Niagara College business administration students enjoyed a Christmas party complete with a cold buffet and music by a disc jockey at the Rose Villa Tavern in Welland yesterday.

Under the direction of Debra Gilmore, business administration co-ordinator and the three-member student executive everybody had a merry time, she said.

"Any profit made through the sale of tickets will be donated to a local charitable organization," said Jason Berger, 19, first-year business administration student and the planning committee chairman.



Santa parade tomorrow

Bundle up the children, call the neighbors, Welland's annual Santa Claus parade is set for tomorrow, Dec. 7, starting at 12:30 p.m.

The floats, bands and festivities will frolic from Mathews School down Southworth Street, turn at Lincoln Street, travel to Burger Street, then to Young Street and finish at the Market Square. For more information call 732-5412.



College blood donations dry up

By MARILYN WALKINGTON
Staff Writer

Once again, the Ambulance and Emergency Care and Law and Security Administration programs have won the Corpsuckle Cup and the Buddy Blood Drop Jr., respectively, for donating the most blood at the Red Cross' Welland campus Blood Clinic on Friday, Nov. 22.

Although Ambulance and Emergency Care won the Corpsuckle Cup with their donation of 62 pints out of the total 207, or 57 per cent of their attendance, Rick Chandler, program co-ordinator, was "disappointed" when 85 to 90 per cent of their program's students donated last year. "A lot were turned away but many just didn't show up," he said.

Buddy Blood Drop Jr. will be awarded to LASA for their donation of 81 pints of blood, the most from any other program.

Jan Potton, vice-president of Welland's Red Cross branch and

a psychology instructor for LASA, said, "without (LASA and Ambulance and Emergency Care) there wouldn't be a clinic," since

143 donations out of a total of 207 came from these two programs. The total number of donations represents 5.2 per cent of the student population, one of the lowest percentages since 1977.

Mrs. Potton said she was "disappointed at the lack of support from administration and faculty when only 11 pints" came from them. All the other programs were also "poorly represented."

Dale Deloughery, Student Administrative Council's vice-president of external affairs, said the clinic "ran pretty good — there wasn't the big lineups like last time — but I was disappointed at the turnout of volunteers. If they couldn't give blood, they could have done something."

"A lot of students didn't have okay from their teachers (to miss classes at certain times) even

though (donating blood) was for a good cause."

"We skipped a lot of classes just to do (donate blood)," Cheri Hammond, 19, a health records technician student, said. "I had to talk (her friend) into it," since it was her first time donating. Cheri said she and her friend would donate blood again.

Judy Wiebe, 21, a second-year LASA student, has donated blood for four years with "no problems — it doesn't affect me at all." Her "friends don't come because they chicken out."

Mrs. Potton said the Red Cross was pleased because the clinic seemed better organized and the whole process ran a lot smoother, although everyone still showed up between 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. causing overcrowding. Many were turned away because they hadn't eaten a good breakfast.

With a change in day, hours and set times for the different programs to donate blood, Mrs. Potton said improvements can still be made.

Nurse Sheri Mon-Crieffe removes the needle from first-time blood donor Shaun Milo's arm. He added his pint of blood to the 57 per cent of the Ambulance and Emergency Care program's attendance, helping his program win the Corpsuckle Cup for the highest percentage donated from any other program. Buddy Blood Drop Jr., awarded to the program donating the highest number of pints, will also be presented, in the spring, to the Law and Security Administration program for donating 81 pints of a total of 207.

Photo by Lynn Drapeau

SAC activities wane

The Student Administrative Council has few activities scheduled on campus before next term, other than the videos screened in the Hamilton room on Tuesday and Thursday.

The only planned event, a term-end Christmas bash/Hawaiian party, occurs off-campus, at the Baby O's Niteclub, in Niagara Falls, on Friday, Dec. 13.

Donna Flutur, SAC manager, said there were no campus events scheduled because of past lack of participation; the difficulty in booking entertainment on short notice, near Christmas; and the fact SAC is devoting most of their time to the party at Baby O's.

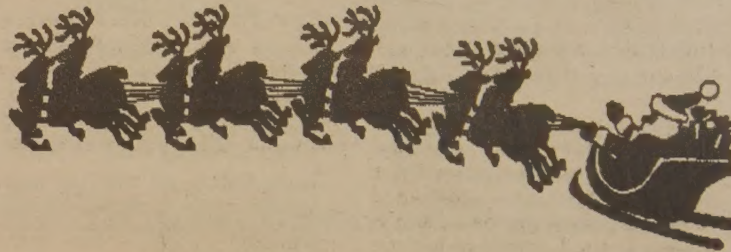
SAC president Karl Anselstetter said Baby O's, the new "official" Niagara College Friday night pub, provides students from all campuses with a place to get together, especially the Niagara Falls campus students, who were previously left out.

For the term-end bash, a \$2 cover charge entitles people to a free buffet between 6 p.m. and 11 p.m., a chance to win of three cruises in the Caribbean, and the music of local rock band, *Rapid Movement*. All door revenues go towards SAC, and a student identification card allows the bearer to by-pass the entrance line. *White Frost* is on stage for tonight's pub night.

Mr. Anselstetter is pleased with the partnership with Baby O's, noting that besides being a good time, it raises money for the students with little effort. The pub night on Friday, Nov. 22, raised \$260, and about 130 people attended.

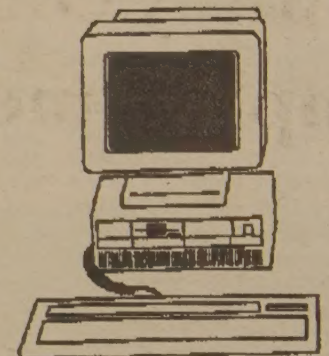
Due to disappointing evening attendance at After Hours, SAC is already planning several events in the new year to be held during the day.

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Turkey raffle

One 20-pound turkey, one jigsaw puzzle and 12 bottles of pop have something in common: Leon Lowry, a former special needs student of Niagara College's Ontario Basic Skills Program.

Mr. Lowry, 49, who attended Niagara College in 1988, donated a jigsaw puzzle to the Student Administrative Council (Donna Flutur's office) because of the "great respect he has for SAC and the college in general." He bought the puzzle in 1987 for five cents at the March of Dimes Regional Headquarters store in Welland. (It has since moved.) "It took me two months to complete the puzzle because I was attending school as well." Mr. Lowry decided to frame the puzzle, in oak, at a cost \$100 which he paid for in five monthly installments. The round-shaped puzzle depicts a colorful scene of fairies in a wood.

The 20-pound turkey and 12 bottles of pop are part of the single draw Christmas prizes a lucky person will win. The tickets sold by Mr. Lowry at the college and Seaway Mall, raise funds for Tanguay Place, a home in Welland for people with disabilities. "I thought of the idea of a draw for 12 prizes when I heard the song, *The Twelve Days of Christmas*."

If you would like a chance to win one 20-pound turkey or 12 bottles of pop, buy a ticket from Mr. Lowry, usually on Tuesdays outside the special needs office at the Welland campus.

From a child's eye view

The Christmas story re-invented

By CATHY WATT
Staff Writer

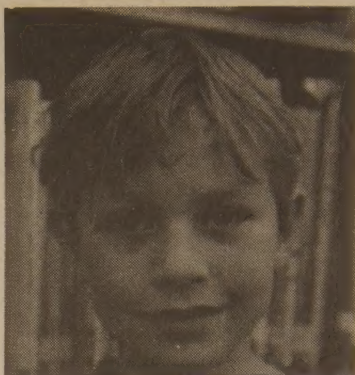
What is the joy of Christmas? Most adults could provide a reasonable definition, but children offer more unique explanations.

Last week, Grade 3 students in Regina Hupponen's class at E.W. Farr Memorial School in Fenwick gave their views on the origin and true meaning of Christmas — not to mention a few Santa sightings. The eight-year-old children told their stories of memorable Christmases and special gift ideas for family members.

Aimee Storosko quickly answered "Jesus' birthday" is the reason for holiday celebrations. Amy said she devised a method to detect Santa's presence in her home. "I sit with my feet on the wall close to my bed. I feel someone is there when my feet tickle and the wall evaporates."

She disclosed a trick she plays on her mother each year. "I wrap up a pair of my mom's old pants . . . I wash them first. She has hundreds of pants and she thinks I gave them all to her."

Tim Davies said Christmas began "about 60 years ago when someone invented it." He said the holiday is similar to Thanksgiving and "everyone joins in for a celebration."

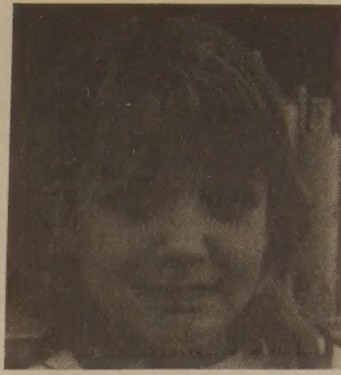


ZACHARY HAIST



ASHLEY JEFFS

Last year, Zachary Haist said he and his brother "drew up a plan" to catch Santa in the act. Although their plan failed, Zachary said "I heard snow falling off the roof and the eavestrough rattled. In the morning, there were deer tracks outside."



AMANDA SUTCLIFFE



TIM DAVIES

Rich Kicul estimated someone "made up Christmas about 300 or 400 years ago." He said the holiday is about "loving, sharing and giving gifts." Rich said the mistletoe in his house gets plenty of use. "My Dad always stands under the mistletoe."

Amanda Sutcliffe recalled a

year when her uncle hid the Christmas tree and all the gifts prior to her family's arrival. "When my cousins and I started crying, he brought it back." Amanda said she gives her mother "anything with unicorns on it." Because her father collects military memorabilia, she gets him "army toys . . . Dad always plays with toys."

Casey Ker said Christmas day is a time to "be nice to

others and give presents . . . you have to put XXX beside your name on them." Casey shared her plan for a holiday menu: kool-aid, soft-boiled eggs and soup.

"Christmas is a special day because you get presents and get loved more than other days," Levi Rose said. He explained his chimney is too small for Santa to climb down. "My parents stay up late, so Santa probably asks them to open the door and let him in."

Ashley Jeffs said she wasn't sure about the origin of Christmas. "I think it has something to do with trees." Ashley isn't taking any chances on missing the jolly gent's arrival. "I'm setting my alarm clock for the middle of the night."

Regardless of the concept of Christmas, these well-prepared children are anxiously awaiting St. Nicholas' arrival.

Gripe to the ombudsman

By MARK NESBITT
Staff Writer

Karen Beattie wears three hats while she attends Niagara College.

Ms. Beattie, an operations management student, is vice-president internal on the Student Administrative Council. She is a mature student and, unofficially, the ombudsman handling complaints on behalf of students at the college.

Ms. Beattie, 26, explains she didn't ask for the job. SAC decided last year the title of ombudsman would be shared among all members of the executive. But she says "People hear (the word) internal and assume I'm the one to talk to."

She stresses students with academic or personal complaints should always approach the source of the problem first, and follow the guidelines for complaints outlined in the student handbook before coming to SAC.

The Student's Rights and Responsibilities handbook outlines the procedures for complaints. Students should first approach the staff member involved, and then the program co-ordinator if no resolution occurs.

The steps continue up the college ladder and stop at the office of the college president, who has the final decision in all complaint procedures, if necessary.

An ombudsman offers students a chance to get through doors "that would be locked to them, but that I can open" in her capacity as a member of SAC.

As an example, Ms. Beattie narrated the story of a student wishing to enrol in a night course at the college. She felt there was some personal conflict between her and her teacher, and her

teacher taught the class she wished to attend. When informed the class was full, the student informed Ms. Beattie of the situation, alleging unfair treatment.

Ms. Beattie contacted the registrar, verified the class was, in fact, full, and promptly contacted the staff member in question. The end result was the creation of a waiting list for the course, and the eventual admission of the student, who will now be able to graduate this year.

"I don't think she would have gotten into the course without some help," said Ms. Beattie, modestly downplaying her role.

Her wide-eyed look and grin disappear when she talks about sexual harassment on campus.

"I don't want to have the image of a feminist," she says, but she wants students, male or female, to feel free to come to her with incidents of sexual harassment. She says she is prepared to handle any situation, including direct intervention on the part of the offended student. Although not a trained counsellor, Ms. Beattie is willing to direct students to the appropriate authorities. To say she has strong feelings on the subject is an understatement. "I don't put up with crap like that," she says.

She also has suggestions to prevent problems dealing with personal safety at the college. "I would like to see an evening escort service, combined with more security staff." She says students should be able to feel safe on campus, allowing them to focus their energies on "getting an education."

Although her roles at the college often overlap, Ms. Beattie seems to handle gracefully any situation she is handed. And the hat fits just fine.

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College director of skills acts as liaison between college and governments

On July 2, 1991, Bea Clarke became the director of skills at Niagara College. Mrs. Clarke's previous position was manager of the Ontario Skills Development program, also at the college.

Mrs. Clarke and the Ventures staff are located in the Foster Wheeler building in St. Catharines. They moved there from their offices in Hennepin Hall (Welland campus) after an increase in enrolment showed a need for more classroom space. The 30 offices in Hennepin Hall were made into classes this summer.

"The Foster Wheeler building is a great spot to be," said Mrs. Clarke. "The offices are spacious and we are centrally located to the Welland, Fort Erie, St. Catharines and Niagara Falls campuses."

Mrs. Clarke is the liaison between the college and the provincial and federal governments.

"I work with the federal government and for those on unemployment insurance," said Mrs. Clarke, adding "this year alone 4,400 people who run out of unemployment insurance may go on social assistance and we are developing training programs to update the skills for those who want to return to school."

These upgrading programs are 15 to 20 weeks in length. The in-



BEA CLARKE

dividuals on these programs will receive unemployment insurance benefits. This will increase the

number of adult learners coming into the college.

"All 23 Ontario community col-

leges have developed this program and private trainers are developing these programs for the colleges," said Mrs. Clarke.

In January of 1992, an Employee Recognition meeting to recognize the top 30 employees who are involved in the program will be held.

Cooking at open house

What's cooking in the kitchen was part of the second "Experience Niagara Hospitality" open house held yesterday at the Niagara College Hospitality and Tourism Centre in Niagara Falls, Ont.

Sponsored by the centre, the day offered potential college students an opportunity to tour the campus and see first-hand the cooking and chef apprenticeship laboratories in use.

Instructors provided information on programs in bilingual tourism, tourism, hotel/restaurant management, food preparation and culinary skills.

Future plans for college expansion

As the new year is upon us, Niagara College President John Saso had many interesting forecasts to share with college students and staff.

— Regarding future plans for expansion of the college he said, "It's our mandate to serve all of the peninsula. We are looking to offer ourselves in Grimsby, Fort Erie, Thorold, Niagara-on-the-Lake and Port Colborne."

— About ties to the community he said, "We will be working a lot more with business, industry and labor to strengthen the skill base of citizens in the Niagara peninsula. We'll be in a strong position to maximize our working abilities after the recession."

— "We'll be releasing the Master Plan." The master plan is a draft proposal which outlines the college's future. "The proposals outline ways in which we can enhance the college in terms of its properties and buildings." There will be a presentation of the master plan to the college community in the new year. Staff and students are welcome. "It's very exciting," he said.

— Regarding the Student Administrative Council's concern about the lack of demonstrable spirit at the college, he said, "Get involved. School spirit comes from within. You have to generate pride in your own school, and you've got a great school."

— Concerning the new St. Catharines campus, he said, "We are still in the negotiating stage. The more we negotiate, the more pieces of land are coming up. We will conclude our current negotiations no later than March 30, 1992."

The President had some valuable advice to give students, in light of the new year. "Don't quit. Your education is so critical to your future. You'll be thankful if you finish your education. You'll have a brighter future if you graduate."

White ribbons break silence

The white ribbons worn by men and displayed on doors around campus are Niagara College's contribution to a week-long campaign called "The White Ribbon Campaign: Breaking Men's Silence to End Men's Violence Against Women."

The campaign is endorsed by the Men's Network for Change. A letter sent by the national association stated, "We believe it is time for men to speak out with a clear and strong voice in support of women, to say men's violence is our issue, our concern, and our responsibility."

The week marks the second anniversary of the Montreal massacre in which 14 women were shot to death at the University of Montreal's engineering studies facilities. The white ribbons symbolize a call for "men to lay down their arms in the war against our sisters."

The Men's Network for Change issued a letter urging several goals be adopted for all government levels and other agencies, including increasing funding for rape centres and shelters for battered women.

Man apprehended at college for inappropriate behavior

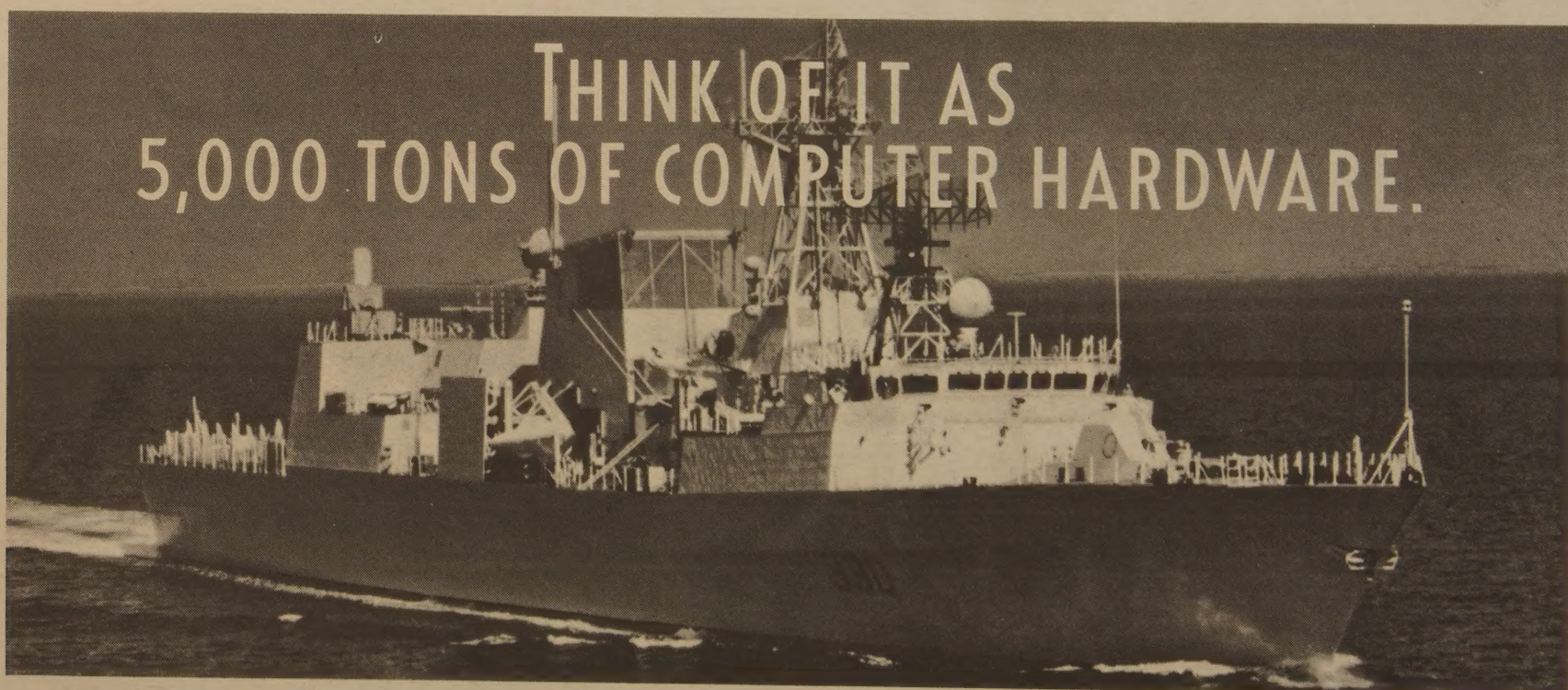
A Niagara region man was apprehended by Niagara Regional Police and Niagara College security personnel yesterday morning at the college's Welland campus after "acting in a way that was inappropriate."

College vice-president administration Hans van der Slagt said, "a boyfriend of a student followed her into the school. We just felt he was acting in a way that was inappropriate and we

wanted to make sure staff and students were safe."

Mr. van der Slagt said police were still questioning the man yesterday afternoon.

Staff Sergeant Strickland, NRP Welland detachment, said no charges had been laid in the incident. "We think it was a misunderstanding. The man was stuck out on the roof (of Simcoe building) and people just assumed." The man's identity was not released.



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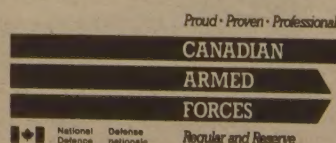
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Canada

Sports

Hockey program honors two alumni

By SHANNON STRANGES
Staff Writer

The Welland Main Arena was the site for two celebrations as Niagara College honored two alumni and the Niagara Knights hockey team won their third game of the season.

On Saturday, Nov. 30, as part of the 25th celebrations of Niagara College, the first hockey coach, Ed Zanetti and first athletic co-ordinator John Birney, along with college President John Saso were all presented with personalized jerseys. The three men, along with present athletic co-ordinator Peter Rylander, were also on hand to drop the puck at centre ice.

The Knights faced off in their fifth game of the season. The Erie Community College Kats were the third team to fall victim to a hot Knights' goalie and even hotter Knights' scorers.

The first period saw the Kats put the first point onto the board just 52 seconds in. Kent Loach

came back and scored a goal for the Knights at 16:21 on an Andrew Clark pass.

After both teams were assessed slashing penalties, the Knights scored again. Cam Houle scored the second Knights' goal at 12:42 from Mike Dakin and Simon Wayda.

Both teams were serving double minors when the Knights scored two goals. At 6:00, Jason Disher scored from Loach while Rick Ryan combined with Clark 45 seconds later.

The Knights scored the final goal of the period at 1:35 by Jim Thorpe. Ryan and Mike Duerden assisted on the play. The Knights ended the period leading 5-1.

Rob Lebedick scored the lone Knights' goal of the period at 18:21. The Kats' power-play goal at 6:38 finished the scoring for the period.

A power-play goal for the Knights saw the home team leap ahead 7-3. Ryan and Thorpe assisted Disher at 15:51 of the third period.

Disher scored his third goal of the game to give him a hat trick at 6:55. Loach assisted on the play.

With just 44 seconds left in the game, a fight broke out, when Dave Hall of the Knights was speared. Hall was given nine minutes in penalties for roughing, fighting, and unsportsmanlike conduct. The Kats received 29 minutes in penalties and the loss of four players. Kats' Joe Maly was given seven minutes for slashing and fighting. John Mathisen, of the Kats, was given a 10-minute misconduct penalty. Brian Kazmierczak, the Kats goalie, was given a 10-minute misconduct and a two-minute roughing penalty. Kazmierczak, who was sitting on the bench at the time of the fight, was penalized for reaching over the glass and hitting Knights players with his pads.

Jim Beattie coached his first game under the Fred Bassi suspension and admitted he was a little nervous before the game.

On Saturday, Nov. 23, the Knights faced off against the University of Buffalo Bulls in the Welland Arena and beat them, 9-7.

The first period saw the visitors go ahead 4-2. Disher scored both goals for the Knights. Ryan and Brian Neilson assisted on the goal.

During the second period, Ryan scored two of his three goals that night. His first goal came on a Thorpe and Sean Wallington pass while the second was from Thorpe and Disher. Neilson scored for the Knights on a pass by goalie Mike Ticknovich.

Third period scorers included Clark from Loach and Trevor Atkins, Ryan from Disher and Thorpe, Atkins from Loach and Clark, and Rob Lebedick from Disher and Dale Zimmerman.

The third period saw the suspension of three Knights players and Coach Fred Bassi.

After Atkins was boarded behind the Knights' net, a fight erupted. Wallington and Atkins were given one game suspension each. Mr. Bassi and John Savarie were each given two games suspensions. Mr. Bassi was suspended for going after the referee when the game finished.

On Wednesday, Nov. 20, the Knights travelled to Conestoga College, Kitchener, only to lose to the Condors, 5-4.

Knight scorers were Duerden from Loach and Thorpe, Zimmerman from Atkins and Loach, Disher from Thorpe and Ryan, and Zimmerman from Neilson.

The Knights' record is now 3-2 for the regular season. Their next home game will be Saturday, Dec. 7 against former alumni in the Welland Main Arena at 8 p.m.



Athlete of the Week



NICOLE GRENIER

Nicole Grenier's positive attitude and dedicated leadership has landed her Niagara News' female athlete of the week honors.

Nicole, a first-year general college student, is a key member of the women's volleyball team.

This 20-year-old has set her sights on a strong season with the Knights squad. "I want to see us making it as far as we can this year," she said. "I love meeting people and having the most fun I can."

Nicole is looking to mature as a player by giving her best in every game, she said. This has been accomplished as Coach Judy Halaiko has made Nicole a regular with the team.

Knights slam-dunk two victories

For the past two games, the Niagara Knights men's basketball team has taken and held the lead early.

On Friday, Nov. 29, the Knights tipped off against the Sault Ste. Marie Cougars and soundly beat them 85-56. Previously, on Wednesday, Nov. 20, the Lambton Lions suffered a crushing defeat to the Knights.

The first half of the game, the Knights took the lead with 53 points thanks to Paul Grummett scoring a game high 16 points. Other contributors in the half in-

cluded Scott Currie, 10; Rick Sinclair, 9; Merv Wrighton, 7; Paul Weller, 4; Brady Fitzgerald, 3; and Cam Bell and Ken O'Brien both with 2.

In the second half, both teams scored 33 points. Weller and Mark Lindsay of the Knights led the way with 9 and 8 points respectively. Rick DiPietro, Sinclair, and Currie all had 3 points. Mike Mercier had a lone point for the Knights.

In the game against the Lions, the Knights scored 42 points to the Lions' 35.

Wrighton led the second half with 9 points. Sinclair, 8; Grummett, 7; Currie and Weller, 5; and Mercier and O'Brien with one point each also aided in the win.

With a season record of 3-1, the Knights will go on the road. Trips to Cambrian and Sault Ste. Marie take place on Friday, Dec. 6 and Saturday, Dec. 7. The next home game for the basketball team will be next year. On Friday, Jan. 10, the Knights take on Cambrian at 7 p.m. in the Welland campus gymnasium.

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Men's volleyball team keeps first place ranking

By KARI CHWIECZAK
Staff Writer

It was essential for the Niagara College men's volleyball team to conquer Sault Ste. Marie, Canadore and Cambrian Colleges in the cross-over tournament held at Canadore College in North Bay last weekend.

Niagara was in first place heading into the tournament and a successful outcome would have assured the team a playoff spot for the Ontario Colleges Athletic Association finals.

Niagara faced Sault College in the first match and began slow out of the gate. Sault was successful in winning the first game 13-15. The Knights rebounded to win the next two games by scores of 15-10 and 15-7 to take the best-of-three wins match.

Fernando Colavecchia had 10 kills for Niagara, while Greg Heyder's defensive play earned him four blocks and six kills. Jim Konrad and Mark Laneville had eight kills each.

Niagara next saw action against the host team, Canadore. Niagara dominated the first game and won 15-4. Canadore rebounded in the second game for a 13-15 win. The third game saw Niagara take a 6-3 lead only to lose 8-15. Niagara blocking shut down and accurate hitting was not evident. Niagara captain Todd Johnston led Niagara in the losing cause with five blocks and Konrad had nine offensive kills.

The final match saw Niagara fall flat. They were easily defeated in two games by the top team in division two, Cambrian College, by the score of 4-15 and 9-15. The only offensive spark was Heyder who led the team with seven kills.

On Nov. 21, Niagara defeated the visiting Conestoga Condors in five games, in Ontario Colleges Athletic Association Division Two league action.

In the opening match, the two teams were evenly matched, but Niagara's inconsistent serving and passing resulted in Conestoga taking the first win 15-11. Offensively, Niagara's Colavecchia and Johnston each picked up four kills.

Game two saw Conestoga take a commanding 9-1 lead, but five kills by Konrad brought Niagara within reach of a victory. Dan Tisson was another asset to the home team, as he came off the bench to help with four spikes. Niagara won by a score of 15-12.

Momentum was again in Conestoga's favor for the third game as they took a 11-0 lead, but Niagara capitalized on five and seven consecutive points to come back and win 15-13. Colavecchia

added five kills, while Johnston and Heyder had three each.

Conestoga fought back from a 7-3 deficit in the next game to win by a score of 15-8 forcing a fifth and deciding game. Niagara's offence connected for 11 kills led by Colavecchia and Konrad. Heyder was outstanding in the back court digging up many unblocked spikes.

The final match saw the two teams juggle the lead until the score was tied at eight all. Niagara's defence kicked in and several key blocks prevented Conestoga from connecting on their spikes.

Niagara remains secure in first place in their OCAA division with a record of four wins and three losses.

Athletic budget covers cost

By KARI CHWIECZAK
Staff Writer

Organizing a school sports trip can prove to be utter chaos!

The Niagara College athletic department is responsible for the organization of these various costly excursions.

One such a journey is the men's soccer team's northern swing to Cambrian College in Sudbury for the Ontario Colleges Athletic Association regional finals, held March 7-8, 1992.

Niagara, who play in the Men's Blue Division against league teams from Niagara Falls and St. Catharines, will make the switch to the OCAA for these annual

finals, held at Conestoga College in Kitchener.

The athletic department will cover the expenses for the northern trip. According to Niagara's athletic co-ordinator, Peter Rylander, the approximate cost will be \$1,500, including renting a college van, gas bills, hotel accommodations and food allowances for each player.

Niagara's athletic budget, close to \$75,000, provides the college with the necessary funding for these road trips. About \$20,000 is spent every year on the hockey team. This includes an annual trip to State College, Pa., and the cost

of equipment, including hockey pants, socks and sticks. Hockey sticks alone cost a total of \$4,000 a year.

Other trips include frequent two-day cross-over volleyball tournaments, where Niagara plays against teams in other OCAA divisions. The women's volleyball team play two cross-over tournaments at Redeemer College in Hamilton and St. Lawrence College in Kingston. The men's volleyball team competed in last weekend's cross-over tournament at Canadore College in Sudbury, and in the new year will travel to Sir Sanford Fleming College in Peterborough.

Condors crumble Knights

By KARI CHWIECZAK
Staff Writer

Inconsistency is the worst enemy of the Niagara College women's volleyball team.

The lady Knights were hosts to the Conestoga College Condors Nov. 28 at the Welland campus gymnasium, and lost the best-of-five wins match three games to two.

Niagara gained momentum in the first game and won by a score of 16-14. In the second game, the home squad faced a 3-13 deficit, but brilliant serving enabled them to fight back to tie it at 13 all. It wasn't enough. Conestoga won 13-15.

After a 6-15 loss in the third game, Niagara battled back from a 4-13 deficit to capture the fourth game 16-14 to force a deciding rally points game.

The final game was filled with continuous errors as Niagara lost 15-13.

Niagara competed in a cross-over tournament Nov. 22 and 23 at Redeemer College in Hamilton where they faced a tough line-up including Sir Sanford Fleming,

George Brown, Cambrian, and Canadore Colleges. Each match was best two-of-three wins.

In the first match, Niagara was defeated easily in two games by scores of 9-15 and 5-15.

George Brown College was Niagara's next competitor. A flat Niagara offence resulted in two quick losses, 13-15 and 13-15.

The third match of the day saw Niagara play the number one team in the Ontario College Athletic Association, Cambrian College. Niagara challenged them in the first game, but lost 12-15. The second saw Niagara fall to defeat 5-15.

The last match of the game saw Niagara take it on the chin in two close losses to Canadore College by scores of 13-15 for both games.

Many of Niagara's mistakes were caused by inexperience. The majority of OCAA teams have four or five returning players in their line-ups, while Niagara is a young team with all new faces.

The team will practise over the Christmas holidays, but won't return to league action until Jan. 17 when they travel to St. Lawrence College, Kingston, for another cross-over tournament.

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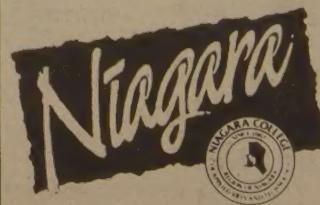
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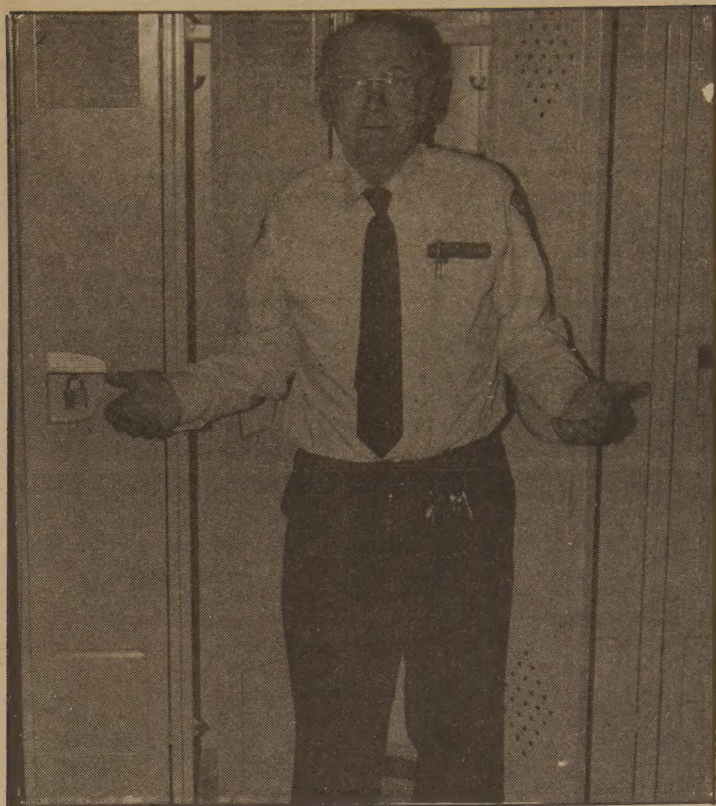


Sports events

HOCKEY — The Knights travel to Buffalo State University for a Dec. 6 game beginning at 7:30 p.m. An alumni game will be held at the Welland Main Arena the following night at 8 p.m. Dec. 11 will see Erie Community College host Niagara at Orchard Park, N.Y., for a 7:30 p.m. start.

MEN'S BASKETBALL — Niagara has two games remaining before the Christmas break. Dec. 6 will see Niagara travel to Cambrian College, Sudbury, for 7 p.m. Niagara will then travel up the road to Sault College, Sault Ste. Marie, the following day for a 1 p.m. game time.

SOCCER — Niagara will play Sardegna Dec. 10 at 9 p.m. This is the last remaining game for Niagara before playoff rounds begin Dec. 17.



Mathew Fushtey, a security guard on the college's Welland campus, is disgusted with the recent rash of locker break-ins.
Photo by Jason Darrah

Campus crime at its highest Average of four locker break-ins a week

By JASON DARRAH
Staff Writer

Campus crime this year is the highest it's ever been, according to longtime staff.

"I can't recall lockers being destroyed in an effort to steal the contents, in 20 years (at Niagara College)," said Mike Collins, an instructor in the English department.

Locker theft tops the list with an average of four break-ins a week, said Linda Maidens, building operations supervisor.

Security guards have pinpointed college areas where most break-ins occur and the most common time periods. The corridor behind the Hamilton room has the highest incidence of locker theft, with nearby hallways a close second. On average, the theft happens in late afternoon before 7 p.m.

Campus security is focusing efforts, but the criminals remain elusive. Security patrols have been increased, especially in the high incidence areas, but no evidence narrows their

investigation.

"We're looking into interior cameras for the future," said Ms. Maidens. Due to high costs involved and current economic pressures she isn't optimistic for the immediate future.

"People's awareness (of locker theft) must be increased," said Ms. Maidens, emphasizing "valuables must not be left in lockers."

Mathew Fushtey, a security guard who works the evening shift six nights a week, said he's perplexed by the increase in break-ins and is disgusted by the violation of students' property.

Considering the high number of locker thefts and the occurrence in busy, open areas, security staff can't understand why no one has reported seeing break-ins. Even audio speakers outside Hamilton room were removed during the day. "Maybe we'll have to have a guard dressed as a student to help us monitor hallways," said Mr. Fushtey.

"We must become more responsible for ourselves and our neighbors," said Ms. Maidens.

The newly formed College Security Committee is investigating a college watch program like a good neighborhood watch. Law and security students are interested in starting a service to escort students and staff to their cars in the evening, and security staff look forward to the potential campus supervisory help.

In addition to locker break-ins, theft of coats, purses, wallets, and books is on the increase, said Ms. Maidens. Most theft is of items forgotten or left unattended in classrooms, lounge areas or the library. "These thieves are very bold and it's up to students to take precautions," said Ms. Maidens.

Ms. Maidens is concerned with students' safety, especially in the more secluded hallways like the one behind the Hamilton room. She suggests "female students should obtain lockers away from dark secluded corridors, next term," reasoning that if so many lockers can be broken into, there is a chance that assault could occur.

New Year's Eve bash

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welcome party and then a New Year's Eve Bash, exclusive to the group.

Students from 27 other universities and colleges across Ontario and New York State have been invited to join in the fun.

The departure date is Dec. 30. Return date is Jan. 1.

Payments can be made at the SAC office at After Hours until Dec. 13.

For more information see Donna Flutur at SAC.

New bar policy at After Hours

The bar at After Hours opened at noon last Friday following a last minute decision by the Student Centre Management Committee.

Donna Flutur, Student Centre manager, said she received notice of the decision "shortly before noon" and opened the bar within minutes. The new policy allows the Student Centre to serve alcohol between 11:30 a.m. and

1:30 p.m. weekdays.

Mrs. Flutur attributes the decision in part to the petition started by a group of disgruntled students. The 700-signature petition was included in the Student Administration Council's presentation to the committee Nov. 5.

In a memo dated Nov. 29, Carol Boettcher, committee chair, said "we should support this change

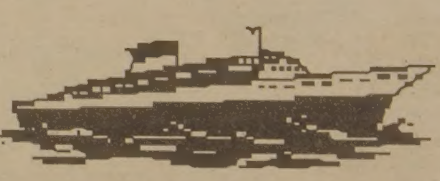
on a trial basis and then evaluate the decision."

Mrs. Flutur said she encouraged the decision as a way to "keep kids on campus" and increase the use of the centre. She expressed hope the increased hours would increase revenues and allow for afternoon events to replace the evening program which have been poorly attended.

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